

ASPEN UNIVERSE REVELATIONS



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Vol. 1

COVER A

FIALKOV
KRUL
GUNDERSON
STEIGERWALD
REED

#1
of 5



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GUNDERSON

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MALIKAI



Although he grew up thinking he was just some loser orphan nobody wanted, Malikai is a very special individual. He is in fact the latest reincarnation of the Samusara, an eternal spirit whose enlightenment sparks the power of magic across the world. Despite possessing vast magical abilities, he is still just a kid at heart trying to live his life and survive the many perils his fate has put in his way.

GRACE



An ancient warrior princess born during an olden age of magic, Grace has survived for thousands of years and lived to see the ebb and flow of magic in the world and in herself. It was her duty to guide Malikai along on his journey of self-discovery and help him achieve his destiny. She was once merely his protector, but now she is his friend.

THE MAJOR CHARACTERS

ASPEN MATTHEWS



Aspen Matthews is a child of two worlds. She was born amongst the Blue, a secret race of beings living below the surface of the ocean, but she was raised on land in the human world. She has vast powers connected to the water itself. She can control it and even transform her body into living water. She can also create incredible blue energy that draws its strength from the water as well. Since her discovery, she has used her powers in an effort to protect both worlds from destroying one another, but can one person save the rest of the world from the inevitable?

Joshua Hale **Fialkov**
& J.T. **Krul**
script

Jordan **Gunderson**
pencils

Mark **Roslan** & Peter Steigerwald
digi-inks

Peter **Steigerwald** & John Starr
colors

Josh **Reed**
lettering



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REVELATIONS: PART 1

Fathom & Soulfire created by Michael Turner

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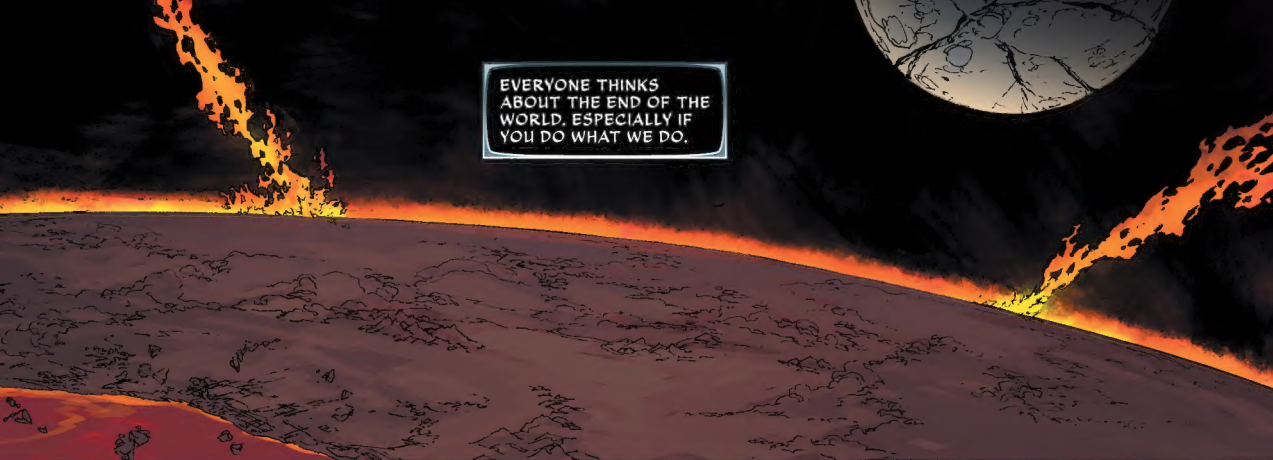
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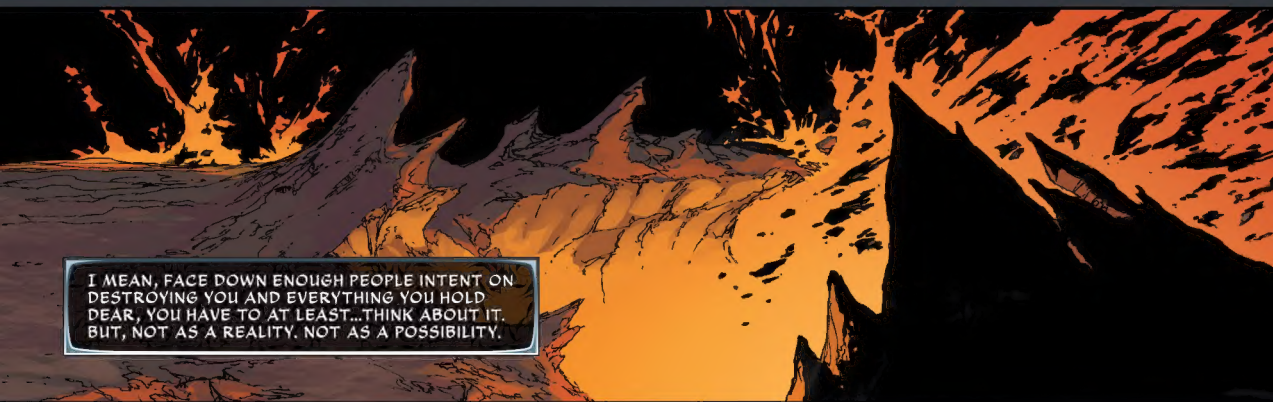
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EVERYONE THINKS
ABOUT THE END OF THE
WORLD. ESPECIALLY IF
YOU DO WHAT WE DO.



I MEAN, FACE DOWN ENOUGH PEOPLE INTENT ON
DESTROYING YOU AND EVERYTHING YOU HOLD
DEAR, YOU HAVE TO AT LEAST...THINK ABOUT IT.
BUT, NOT AS A REALITY. NOT AS A POSSIBILITY.



CERTAINLY NOT
RIGHT HERE--
RIGHT NOW.



AND I'LL BE DAMNED
IF WE'RE GOING TO
LET IT HAPPEN.

I ALWAYS IMAGINED SUCH DEVASTATION WOULD COME AT THE HANDS OF IMMENSE **TECHNOLOGY** GONE WRONG, OR A **MAGIC** TOO POWERFUL FOR ANYONE TO HANDLE. WE GOT BOTH IN OUR WORLD.

BUT THIS LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING ELSE ALTOGETHER—LIKE OUR UNIVERSE IS GETTING WIPED OUT. PIECE BY PIECE.

NICE OF YOU TO JOIN US, MALIKAI.

LEAVE HIM BE, P.J.

P.J., SONIA, I NEED A HAND OVER HERE.





EVERYTHING
OKAY?

I'M FINE,
GRACE. JUST
NEEDED SOME
TIME...



IS IT
ANOTHER
VISION?

NO, JUST
A HEADACHE
FROM THE
LAST ONE.

THE THINGS
YOU SEE...JUST
LIKE MY VISIONS
OF THE FUTURE...
THEY AREN'T
DEFINITE.



THESE FEEL
PRETTY DAMN REAL,
AND, LOOK AROUND
US. SOMETHING IS
WRONG.

HE'S RIGHT,
PILI. MY POWERS
HAVE FELT OFF FOR
WEEKS NOW. THERE'S
SOMETHING...
CHANGING.

AND
AFTER
A FEW EONS
OF LIFE, I KNOW
WHEN THINGS
ARE OUT OF
SYNC.



DAMMIT, P.J.,
BE **CAREFUL**.
WE'RE TEARING
REALITY IN HALF,
NOT BUILDING A
DAMN MOTOR-
CYCLE.



I STILL THINK **GRACE**
SHOULD COME
WITH ME.

AND
I AM?

THE POWER
IT TAKES TO
OPEN THE PORTAL
WILL WIPE ME OUT.
I'M NOT STRONG
ENOUGH TO DO
IT TWICE.

YOU BETTER
HOPE SO, MAL.
OTHERWISE, THIS'LL
BE A ONE WAY
TRIP.

IT'S
READY
IF YOU
ARE.



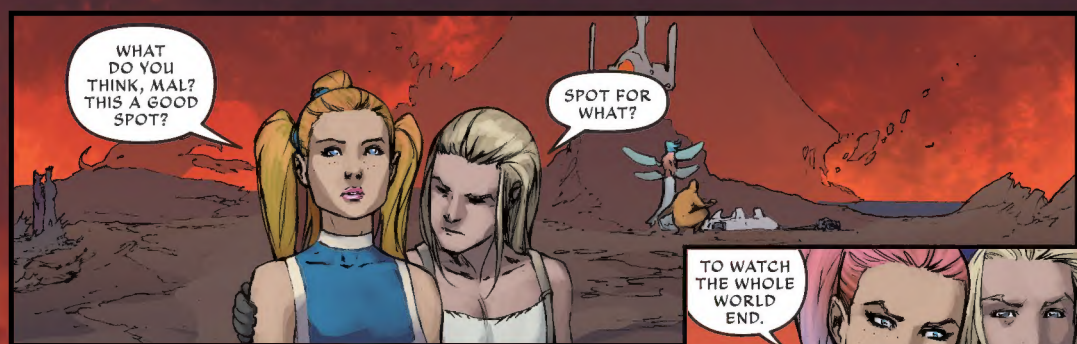
YOU
ALRIGHT, PILI?
YOU LOOK GLUM. I
MEAN, WAY MORE
SO THAN
USUAL.

AFTER
WHAT WE'VE
BEEN THROUGH? I
DON'T KNOW THAT
I EVER WILL BE.
AND YET,
YOU?



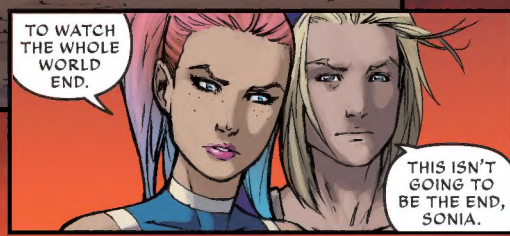
EVEN BLIND,
I CAN SEE YOUR
WARMTH. YOUR
FAITH. YOUR
HAPPINESS.

ALWAYS.



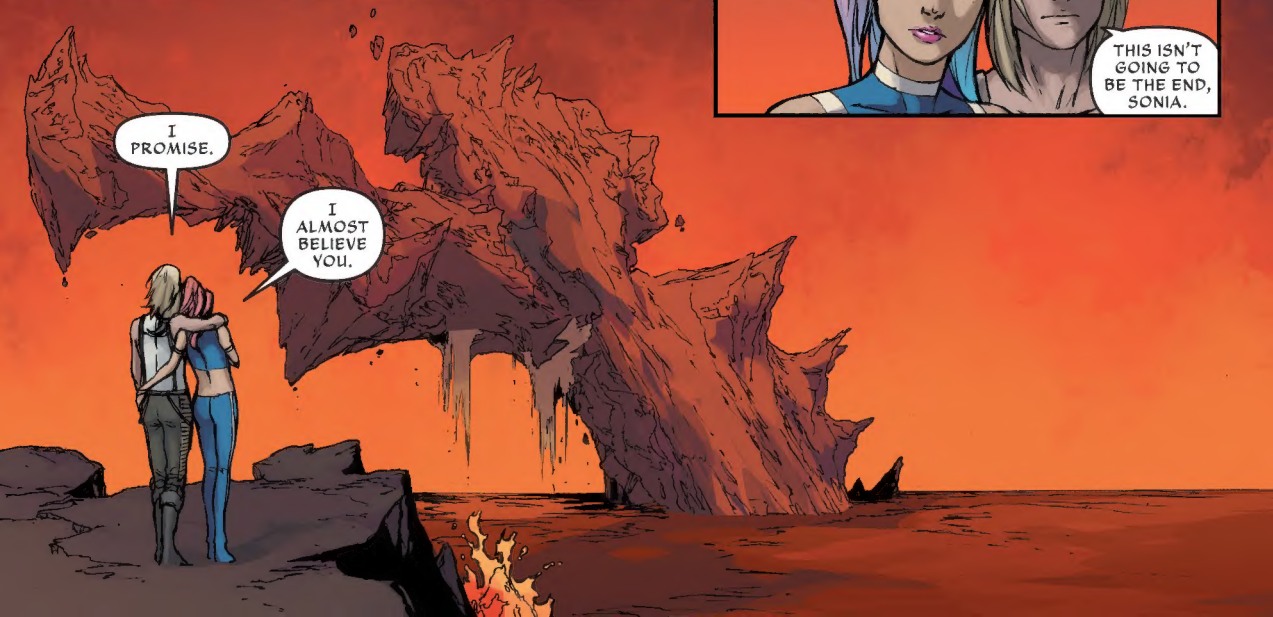
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK, MAL?
THIS A GOOD
SPOT?

SPOT FOR
WHAT?



TO WATCH
THE WHOLE
WORLD
END.

THIS ISN'T
GOING TO
BE THE END,
SONIA.



I
PROMISE.

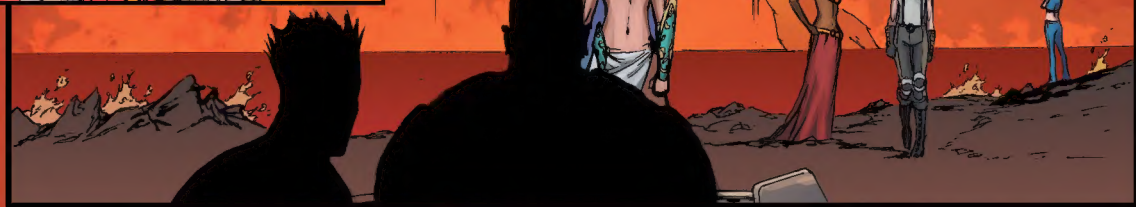
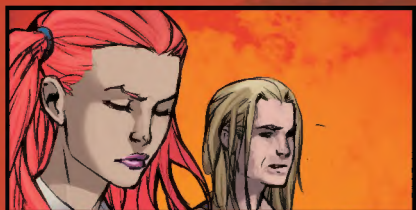
I
ALMOST
BELIEVE
YOU.



WE MUST HURRY. WE ARE OUT OF TIME.

NOT FOR LONG, GRACE. RIGHT, BIG GUY?

WE'LL SEE.



HOW ARE THE VISIONS?

STRONGER. CLEARER.



I'VE SEEN THIS DEVASTATION. BUT MORE THAN THAT...

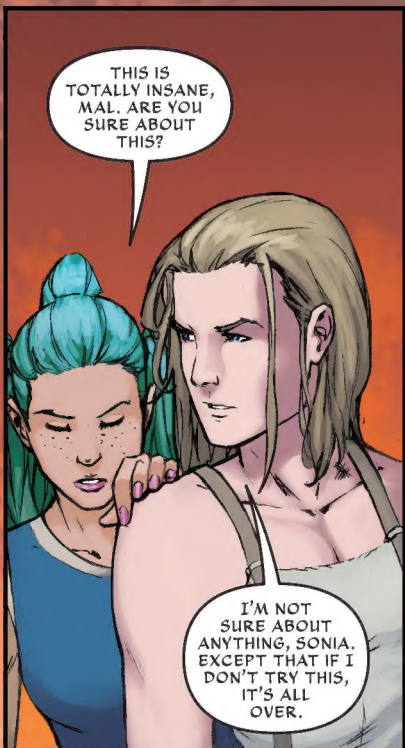
THE WORLD AS IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN. OR MIGHT BE.

WASTELANDS. ENDLESS SUFFERING.

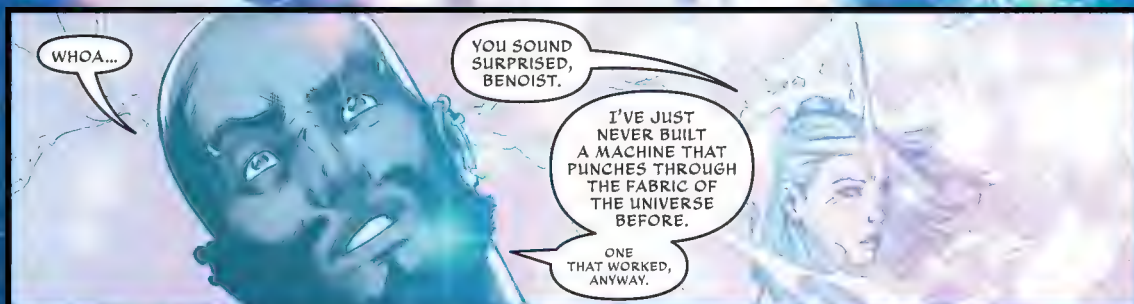
AND HER.

FLICKERS OF A WOMAN. BRIGHT LIKE A BEACON.

STRONG. POWERFUL. BEAUTIFUL.



FWAAAASHHH



WHOA...

YOU SOUND
SURPRISED,
BENOIST.

I'VE JUST
NEVER BUILT
A MACHINE THAT
PUNCHES THROUGH
THE FABRIC OF
THE UNIVERSE
BEFORE.

ONE
THAT WORKED,
ANYWAY.



I...DON'T...
UNNGH...THINK I
CAN HOLD IT MUCH
LONGER...



THEN I'D
BETTER GET
MOVING.

HERE,
IN CASE YOU
NEED HELP. THEY'RE
MECHANICAL
SCOUTS.



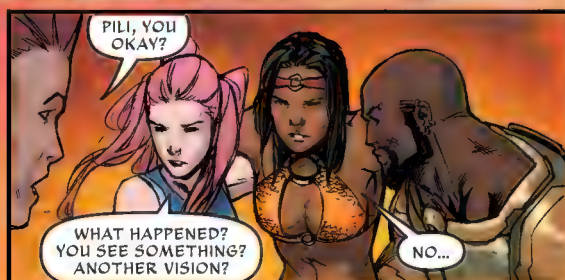
DON'T
WORRY,
GUYS...



...I'LL
BE RIGHT
BACK.



NNNNNNN...!



PILI, YOU
OKAY?

WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU SEE SOMETHING?
ANOTHER VISION?

NO...



...I DON'T
SEE...

...ANYTHING.

TIME WAS, I THOUGHT
I WAS JUST SOME KID.
AN ORPHAN WITHOUT A
CARE OR A PURPOSE.

BUT THE TRUTH IS--I'M KIND OF THE
BATTERY FOR MAGIC IN THE WORLD.
THE LATEST MANIFESTATION OF AN
ETERNAL SPIRIT THAT HAS EXISTED
SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME.

COMING AND GOING

LIVING AND DYING

ME, BUT NOT ME. NOT REALLY. MY SOUL
REINCARNATED, WHATEVER THAT MEANS.

AND NOW, THIS ME IS RIDING
A MECHANICAL DRAGON
THROUGH THE GOOEY
CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE.

EAT YOUR HEART
OUT, PREVIOUS ME'S.



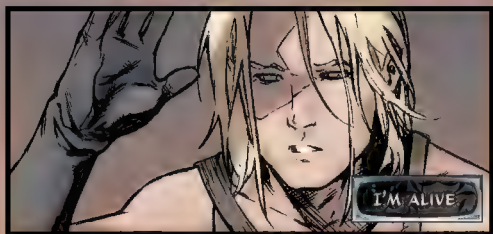
MAYBE THAT'S WHY I WAS THE
ONLY ONE WHO COULD DO THIS.

WHY MY FRIENDS
TRUST ME TO
TRY AND SAVE
OUR WORLD.

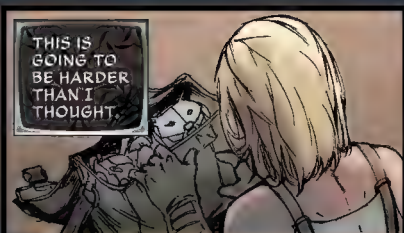
AND YET, I FEEL
THERE'S SOMETHING...
OFF. SOMETHING WORSE.

IN THE VISIONS
NOW? THERE IS
ALWAYS DEATH.

INEVITABLE.
PAINFUL.
DEATH.



BUT, WHERE
THE HELL AM I?



TIK
TIK
TIK!

NICE
TOYS, BENOIST.
THANKS.



OKAY,
BOYS. GO
FETCH.

SCREECH

TIME IS LOST.

MINUTES TURN
INTO HOURS.

HOURS TURN
INTO WEEKS.

EVERYTHING
IS GONE.
EVERYONE

I'M ALL ALONE.

DEEP DEEP DEEP

OR... AM I?

ONE OF BENOIST'S CRITTERS
FOUND SOMETHING.

WITH MY LUCK,
IT'LL BE AN
OLD SHOE.

OKAY, SO THE
OPPOSITE OF
AN OLD SHOE.

WHAT
ARE YOU?
WHERE DID
YOU COME
FROM?

I
BROUGHT
IT WITH
ME.



YOU...
YOU'RE ONE
OF THEM.

WAIT,
I DON'T--
OOOOFF!

THUUKKSHHH

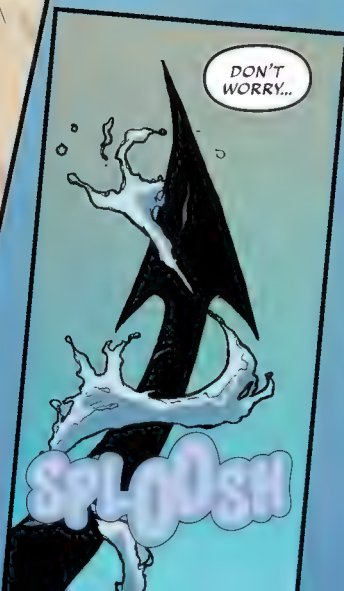


YOU
CAUSED ALL
OF THIS.

PLEASE...
I AM NOT YOUR
ENEMY.

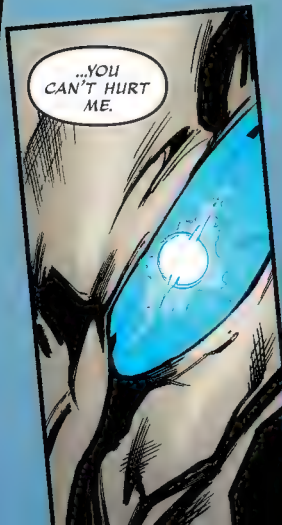


I DON'T
WANT TO
HURT
YOU.



DON'T
WORRY...

SPLASH



...YOU
CAN'T HURT
ME.

PEOPLE LIKE YOU
TURNED OUR WAR INTO
ARMAGEDDON.

PEOPLE LIKE
YOU DESTROYED
EVERYTHING.

IT
WASN'T ME.
I PROMISE.

LIAR!!!

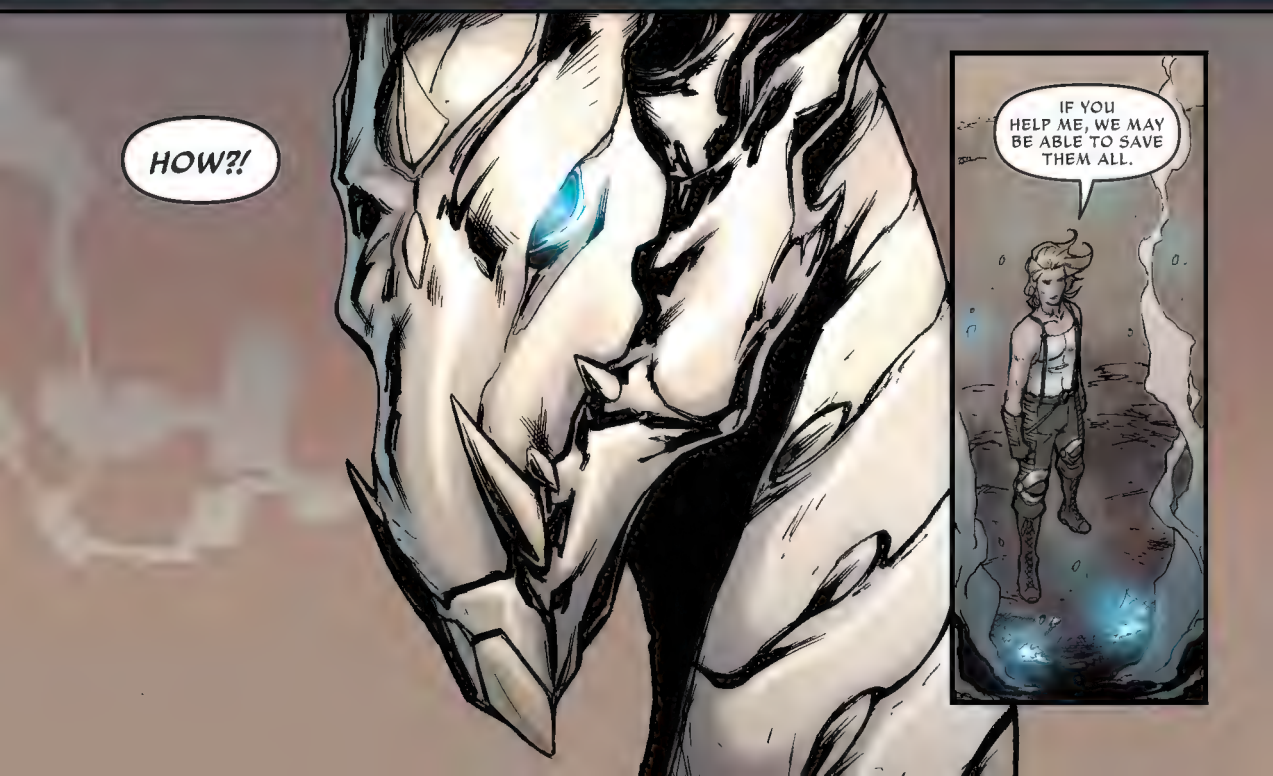


PLEASE,
YOU MUST
LISTEN TO
ME!

I CAN
FIX THIS!
ALL OF
THIS!

HOW?!

IF YOU
HELP ME, WE MAY
BE ABLE TO SAVE
THEM ALL.



CAN YOU
TURN BACK
TIME?

CAN
YOU REWRITE
HISTORY?

CAN YOU
BRING BACK THE
DEAD?!

I THINK
I CAN. WE
CAN.

WHY
SHOULD I
BELIEVE
YOU?

LOOK
AROUND. WHAT
ELSE IS THERE
TO LOSE? YOU ARE
RIGHT. THIS WORLD
IS DEAD. BUT IT
DOESN'T HAVE
TO BE.

COME
WITH ME.

TO WHERE?

MY WORLD.



MY
WORLD
IS ONE OF
MAGIC.

A MAGIC
THAT HAS EBBED
AND FLOWED SINCE
THE DAWN OF
TIME.

AND WHEN
TECHNOLOGY SEEMED
LIKE IT HAD COMPLETELY
REPLACED THE NOTION OF
THE MYSTICAL, IT CAME
BACK IN A BLAZE OF
GLORY.

BUT I HAVE
ALSO SEEN GLIMPSES
OF YOUR STRUGGLE.
BETWEEN THE BLUE IN
THE WATER BELOW
AND THE HUMANITY
LIVING ABOVE.

MY WHOLE LIFE
HAD BEEN ABOUT
THAT WAR, UNTIL IT
ENDED IN MUTUAL
ANNIHILATION.

BUT, I DON'T
UNDERSTAND. WHAT
DO OUR TWO WORLDS
HAVE TO DO WITH ONE
ANOTHER? HOW IS GOING
TO YOUR WORLD GOING
TO HELP SAVE
MINE?

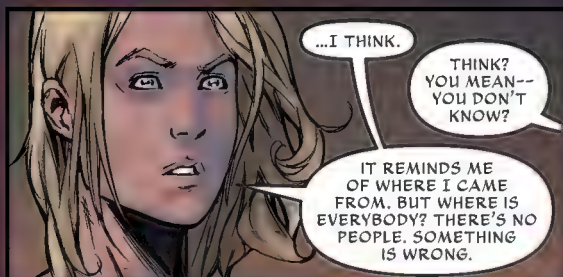
THAT'S
JUST IT. OUR
WORLDS...

...THEY
ARE THE
SAME.



WHERE ARE WE?

MY TIMELINE...



...I THINK.

THINK? YOU MEAN-- YOU DON'T KNOW?

IT REMINDS ME OF WHERE I CAME FROM. BUT WHERE IS EVERYBODY? THERE'S NO PEOPLE. SOMETHING IS WRONG.



LISTEN... DO YOU HEAR THAT?

HALA.

HALA.

HALA.

HALA.

VOICES. COMING FROM DOWN THERE.



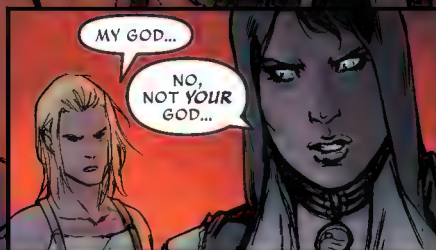
HALA.

LOOK AT THEM...

HALA.

HALA.

HALA.



MY GOD...

NO, NOT YOUR GOD...



HAZEEEEE

THEIR GOD.
BASTARD.
HE'S THE ONE. THE
ONE WHO DESTROYED
EVERYTHING.

GRACE?!
AND IS
THAT...?

IT'S ME???

IT CONTINUED...

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LAST ISSUE:

Malikai and his allies, including Grace, attempted to literally turn back time in order to save their present from the devastation wrecking their world. Combining the engineer-savvy Benoist's technology with Grace's powerful magic in one device, the group was able to send Malikai back to another time period. However, the result brought him no closer to finding the answer to their conundrum—yet did put him into contact with one Aspen Matthews. Following the pair's initial disagreement, they would eventually decide to team up, but soon encountered what appeared to be another—more malevolent—version of Malikai himself...



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by JIMMIE GUNDERSON
& PETER STEIGERWALD



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& J.T. **Krul**
script

Jordan **Gunderson**
pencils

Mark **Roslan** & John Erick
digital art

Peter **Steigerwald** & John Erick
color

Josh **Reed**
lettering



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FanExpo Canada 2016 Fall
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REVELATIONS: PART 2

Featuring Aspen Matthews, Grace, and Malikai

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THIS CAN'T BE
OUR FUTURE. NOT
FOR OUR WORLD.
NOT FOR GRACE.



I PULLED ASPEN FROM HER
WASTELAND IN ORDER TO
STOP THIS EVIL FROM
DESTROYING EVERYTHING.

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE
WE ARE TOO LATE.



THERE'S PRACTICALLY
NOTHING LEFT TO SAVE.



CAN
YOU FEEL IT,
GRACE?

FEEL
WHAT? NOTHING
REMAINS.

YES.
NOTHING BUT
THE BAREST SCRAPS.
ONLY WHISPERS OF
MAGIC REMAIN
HERE FOR US.

WHAT
DO WE DO,
NOW?

NOW?
NOTHING. BUT
THEN... THEN IS
ANOTHER STORY.
THE TIME HAS
COME...



WAIT. WHAT'S THIS?
A SPARK OF LIFE. OF
ENERGY. THERE ON
THE RIDGE.



UH-OH.

WHAT?

I CAN FEEL
HIS MAGIC AND
HIS SPIRIT.

BUT
THAT'S NOT
THE PROBLEM.
HE CAN FEEL
MINE.



MALIKAI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY, ASPEN.

I KNOW HER. TRUST ME.

IT'S NOT YOU I'M WORRIED ABOUT TRUSTING.

BRING ME THAT SOUL!

YES, MY LORD.

GRACE, IT'S ME. MALIKAI.

IS THAT NAME SUPPOSED TO MEAN SOMETHING TO ME?

OKAY, YOU MIGHT NOT REMEMBER ME.

BUT YOU KNOW ME. AND, I KNOW YOU.

YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY YOU AREN'T LIKE THIS. FEASTING OFF WEAKER SPIRITS.

YOU'RE BETTER THAN THAT.

YOU ARE RIGHT. I AM.

AND GETTING BETTER BY THE SECOND.

NNNN...

OKAY, HANDS OFF.

LET ME GUESS-- I'M GOING TO PAY FOR THAT?

WELL, NOW THAT WE'VE ESTABLISHED WHO IS A FRIEND AND WHO IS NOT...



LET'S
DO THIS.



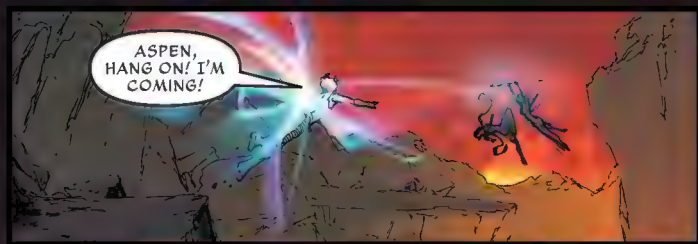
YOU HAVE
NO POWER
HERE. NO
MAGIC.

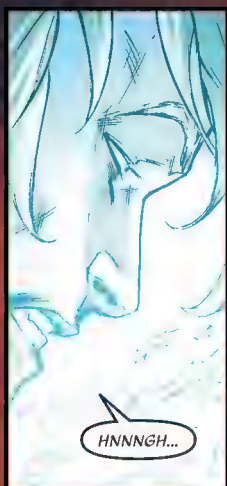
IT
BELONGS
TO US.



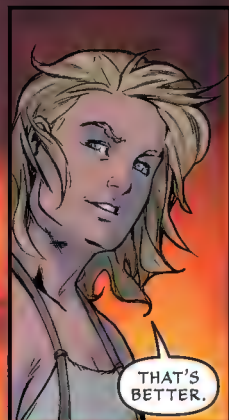
MIGHT
BE HARD FOR
YOU TO BELIEVE,
BUT I'M NO
SORCERER.

YOU ARE
NOTHING.





HNNNGH...



THAT'S
BETTER.



THERE IS
GREAT MAGIC
IN YOU. I CAN
FEEL IT.

AND I LIKE
YOUR WINGS, BUT
I GOTTA THINK THAT'S
ALL I'M GONNA LIKE
ABOUT YOU.



SUCH
POWER. I
AM DRAWN
TO IT.

LIKE A
BEACON,
CALLING TO
ME...

WOULDN'T
DO THAT IF I
WERE YOU.



"CALLING ME...HOME."

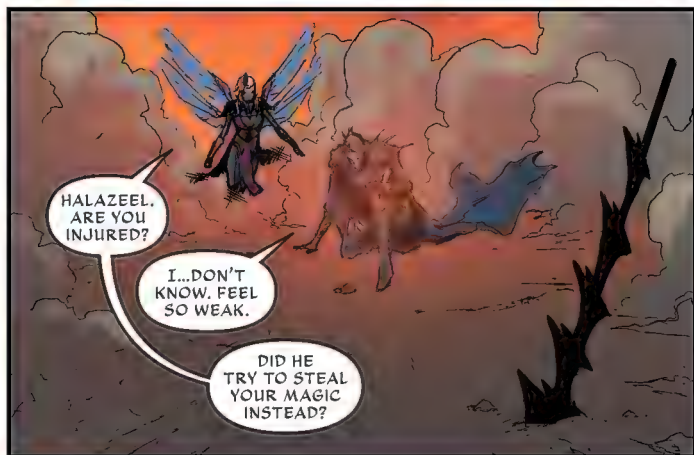
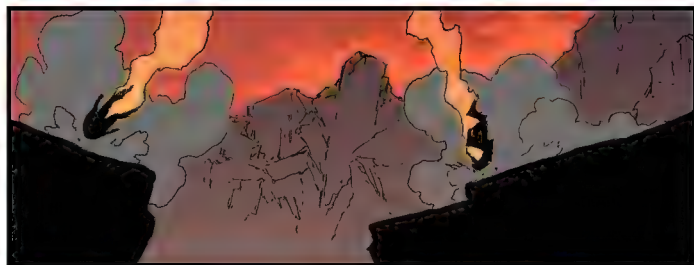
NNNN...!

NNNN...!

NOW, I SEE

I SEE WHY WE
SEEMED SO
CONNECTED.

THIS HALAZEEL. IT'S NOT ME, BUT
IT'S CLOSE ENOUGH. HE'S A FUTURE
SAMUSARA. WE SHARE THE SAME
SPIRIT, THE SAME SOUL. LIVING AND
DYING AND LIVING AND DYING OVER
AND OVER THROUGH THE CENTURIES.



MALIKAI!

HALAZEEL,
ARE YOU
INJURED?

I...DON'T
KNOW. FEEL
SO WEAK.

DID HE
TRY TO STEAL
YOUR MAGIC
INSTEAD?

NO.
THIS WAS
SOMETHING
ELSE.

WE
MUST GO,
NOW.



CAN YOU
STAND?

I THINK
SO.

WHAT
HAPPENED?

HALAZEEL IS
LIKE ME. HE HAS A
UNIQUE CONNECTION
TO THE MAGIC.

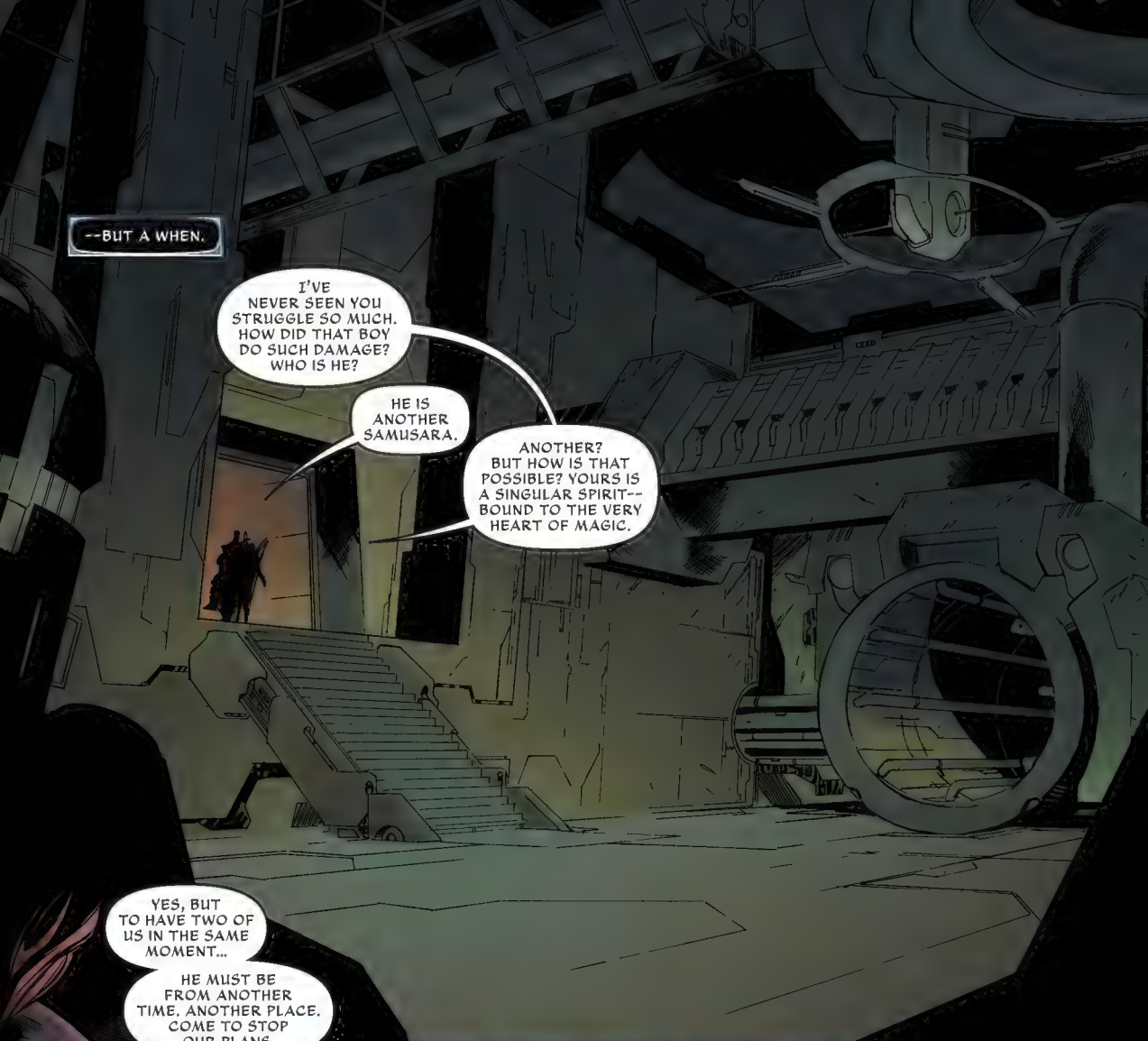
GUESS
OUR SPIRITS
SHORTED EACH
OTHER OUT.



WELL,
REGARDLESS--

YOU GOT HIM
ON THE RUN.
HEADING TOWARD
WHO KNOWS
WHERE.

IF YOU
RECOGNIZED
HIM WHEN YOU SAW
HIM, ASPEN, THEN
I'D SAY IT'S NOT
A WHERE--



--BUT A WHEN.

I'VE
NEVER SEEN YOU
STRUGGLE SO MUCH.
HOW DID THAT BOY
DO SUCH DAMAGE?
WHO IS HE?

HE IS
ANOTHER
SAMUSARA.

ANOTHER?
BUT HOW IS THAT
POSSIBLE? YOURS IS
A SINGULAR SPIRIT--
BOUND TO THE VERY
HEART OF MAGIC.

YES, BUT
TO HAVE TWO OF
US IN THE SAME
MOMENT...

HE MUST BE
FROM ANOTHER
TIME. ANOTHER PLACE.
COME TO STOP
OUR PLANS.

BUT,
HOW WOULD
HE EVEN KNOW
WHAT THAT
IS?

WE
HAVEN'T
GONE
YET.

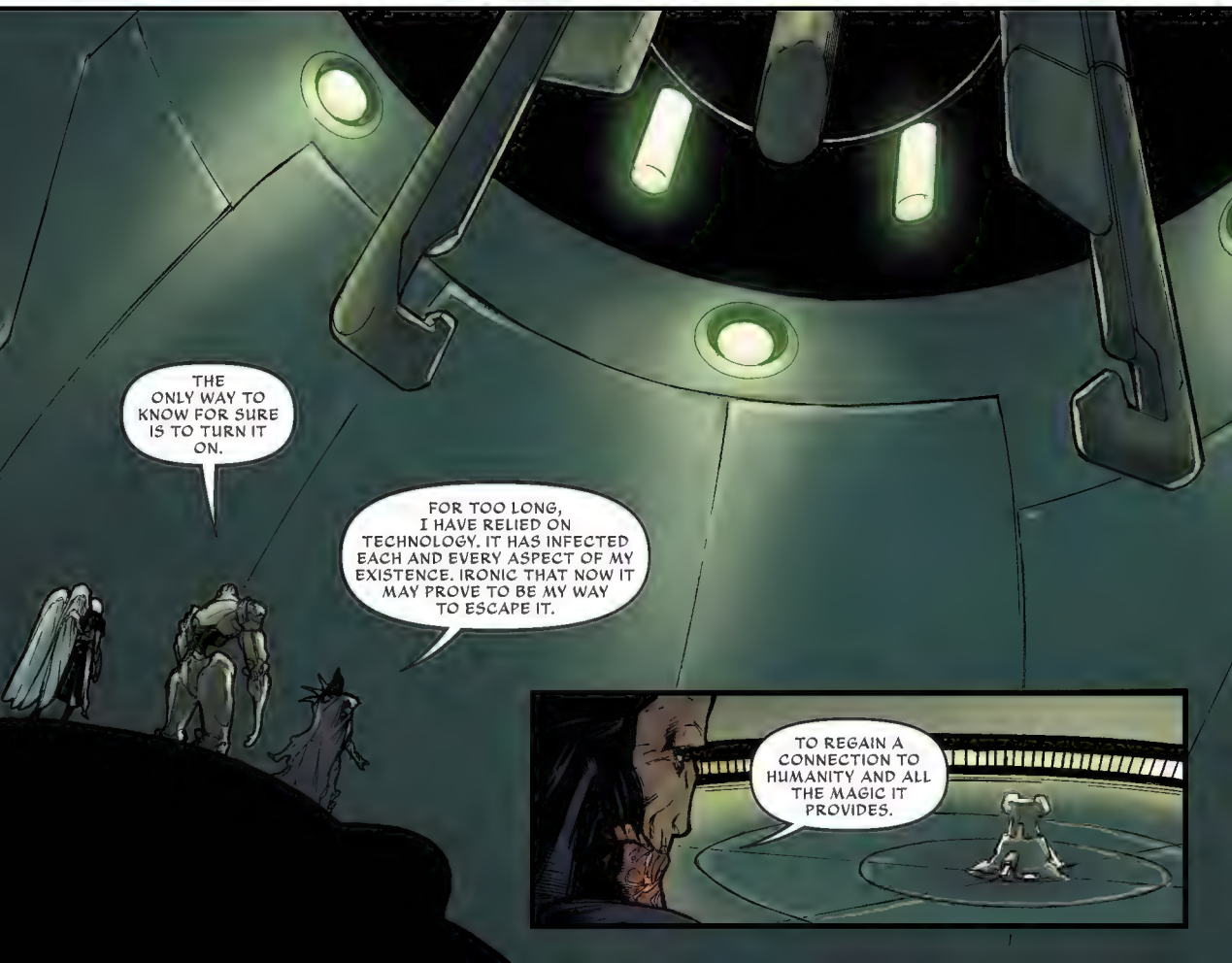
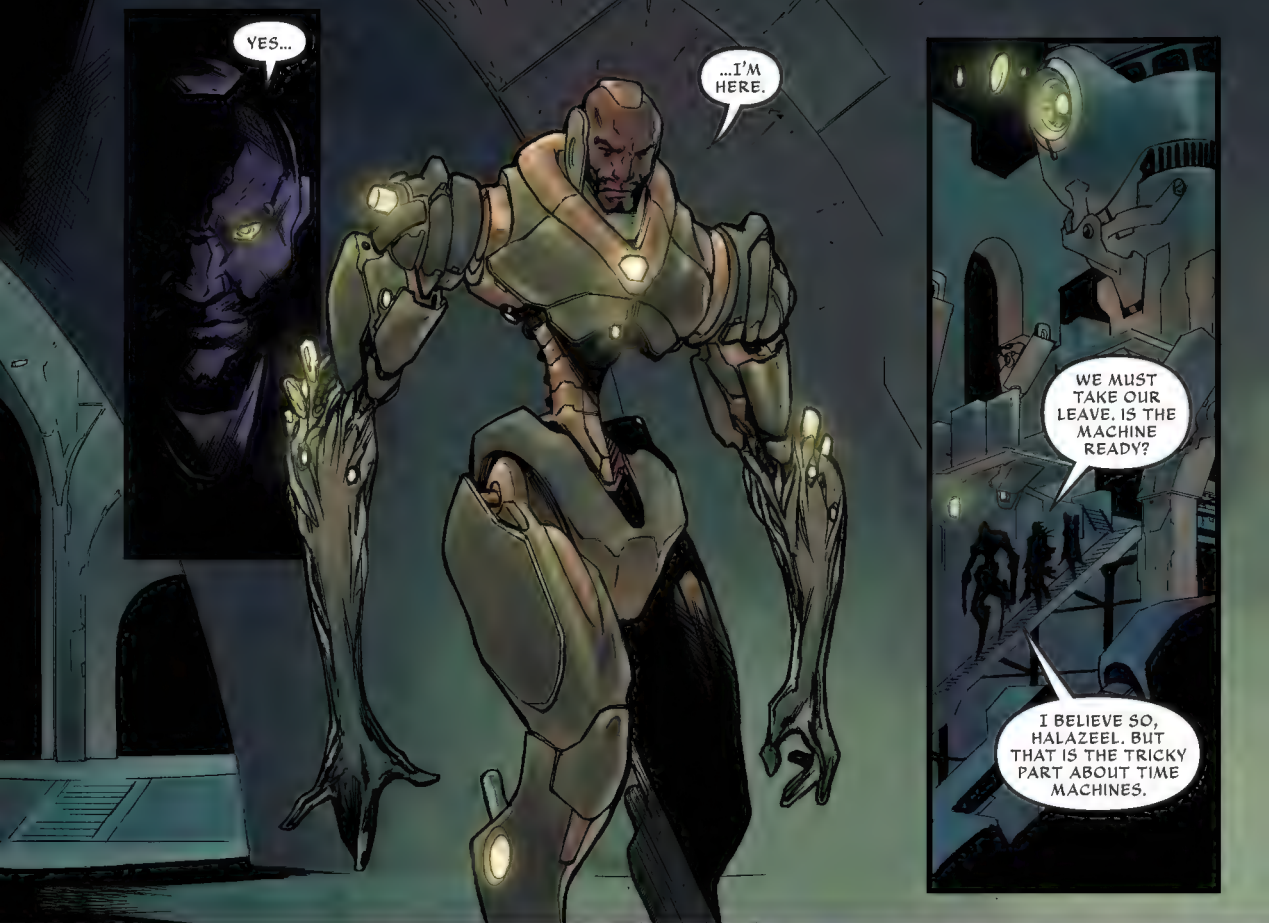
THAT'S
THE THING
WITH TIME,
GRACE.

HE CAN
EXPERIENCE
WHAT WE HAVEN'T
DONE YET.

BUT,
IF HE HAS
COME HERE TO
STOP ME, THAT CAN
ONLY MEAN ONE
THING.

I HAVE
SUCCEEDED.

BENOIST!





...BUT IT'S NOT.



IT'S THE END.

I WON'T LET YOU DESTROY MY WORLD, HALAZEEL.



THAT'S YOUR MISTAKE. IT'S NOT YOUR WORLD. IT'S MINE.



MALIKAI!
LOOK OUT!

NO! THEY'LL
DAMAGE THE
MECHANISM.



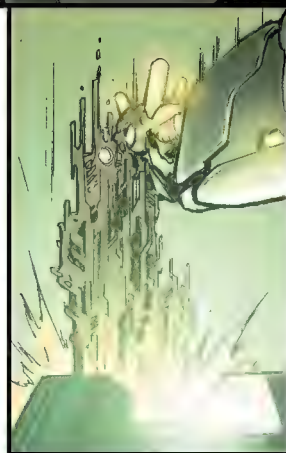
BENOIST!
ACTIVATE THE
MACHINE!



B-BENOIST?



NO.
DON'T DO
IT!



IT IS
DONE.



NOOOOO!





IT'S TOO MUCH.

I'VE SEEN THIS ALL BEFORE.

THE DEATH.

THE DEVASTATION.

I WON'T GO THROUGH IT AGAIN.

I CAN'T.



YES...

WATER, THE
VERY ESSENCE
OF ALL LIFE.

I CAN FEEL IT-- COURSEING
THROUGH MY ENTIRE BODY.

STRENGTHENING EACH
AND EVERY CELL.



REJUVENATING ME,
BODY AND SOUL.

LIKE I AM BEING
BORN AGAIN.



YOU SHOULD
HAVE REMAINED
BEHIND.

DEATH
WOULD HAVE
COME, BUT THERE
YOU WOULD HAVE
HAD A FIGHTING
CHANCE.

DO NOT
THINK YOU CAN
STOP US. YOUR
FATE IS SEALED.
OUR POWER IS
INFINITE.

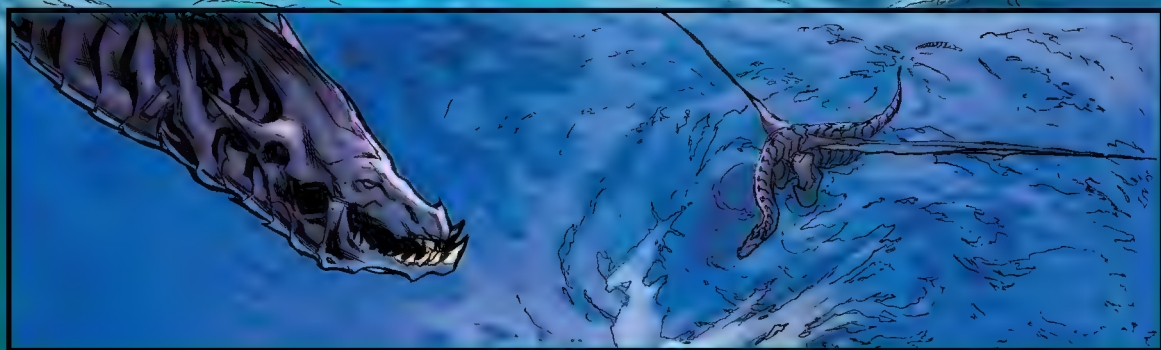
LET HIM
GO!

BOW BEFORE
HALAZEEL.

NOT REALLY
MY STYLE.
BESIDES--MAYBE
YOU HAVEN'T
NOTICED...

YOU'RE IN
MY WORLD,
NOW.









GUESS
THEY WEREN'T AS UP
FOR A CHALLENGE AS
THEY THOUGHT.

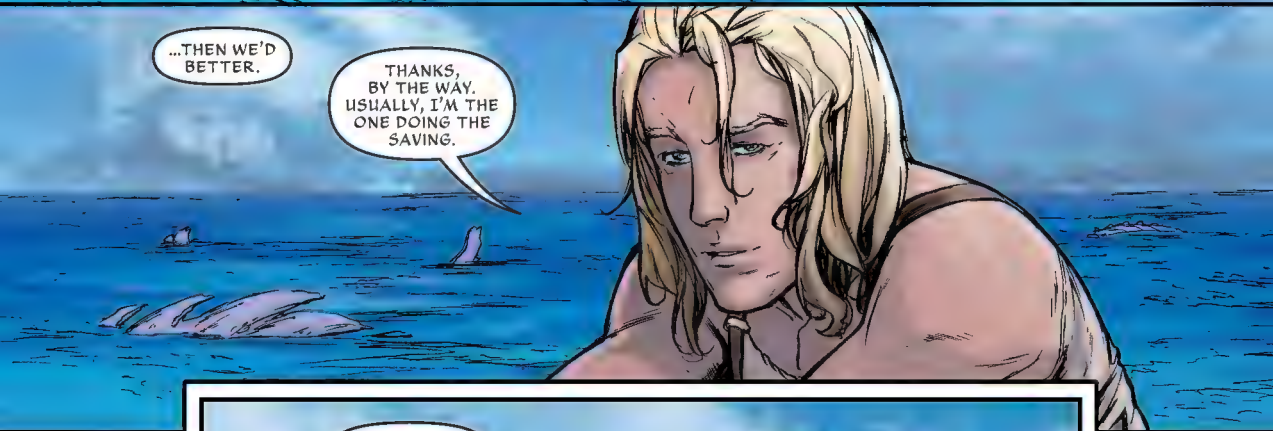
MALIKAI?
ARE YOU
OKAY?

I'M ALIVE
AT LEAST. WHAT
HAPPENED TO
THEM?

MR. AND MRS.
INFINITE POWER
RAN OFF.

SOMETHING
TELLS ME WE'LL
BE SEEING THEM
AGAIN.

IF
WE DON'T
WANT THEM
DESTROYING
EVERYTHING...



...THEN WE'D
BETTER.

THANKS,
BY THE WAY.
USUALLY, I'M THE
ONE DOING THE
SAVING.



DON'T
FEEL BAD. I GET
THAT A LOT.

REALLY
ROBBING THE
CRADLE THIS
TIME, HUH?



KILLIAN?!

KIANI?!

YOU'RE
ALIVE!

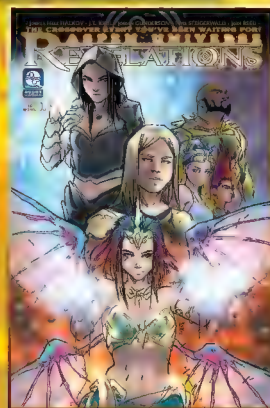


ALWAYS
THE PERCEPTIVE
ONE, ASPEN.

WHY
WOULDN'T
WE BE?

7
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE:



ASPEN UNIVERSE REVELATIONS

**THE BIGGEST EVENT IN THE
HISTORY OF ASPEN COMICS
CONTINUES!!!**

#3



STORY BY
JOSHUA HALE FIALKOV AND J.T. KRUL

ART BY
JORDAN GUNDERSON AND PETER STEIGERWALD

LETTERS BY
JOSH REED

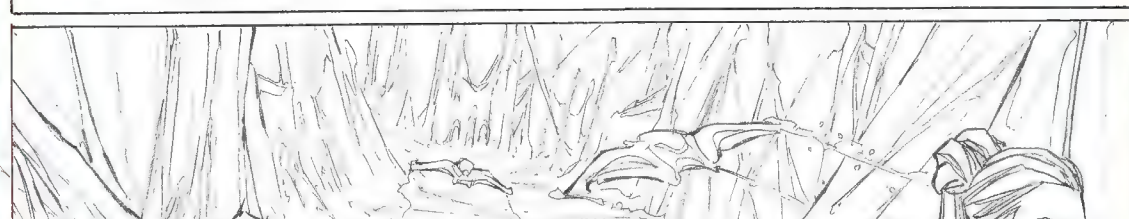
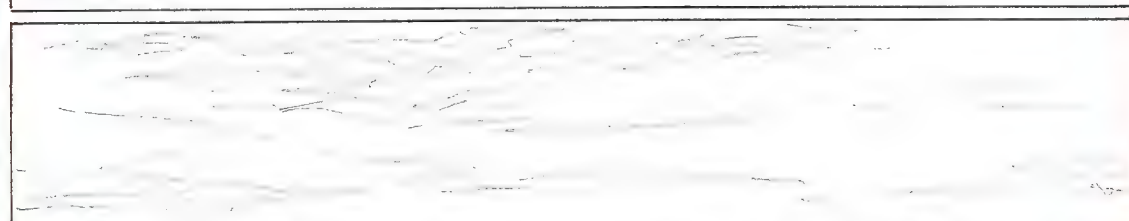
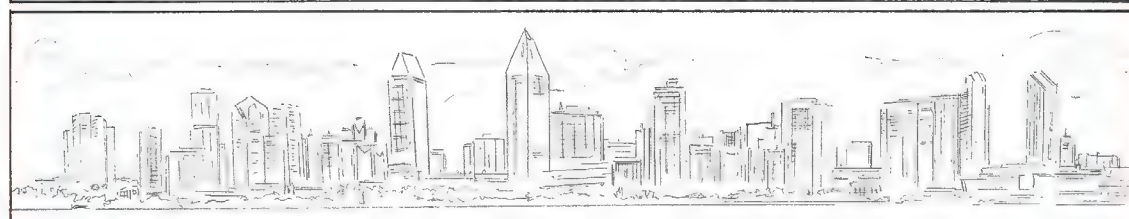
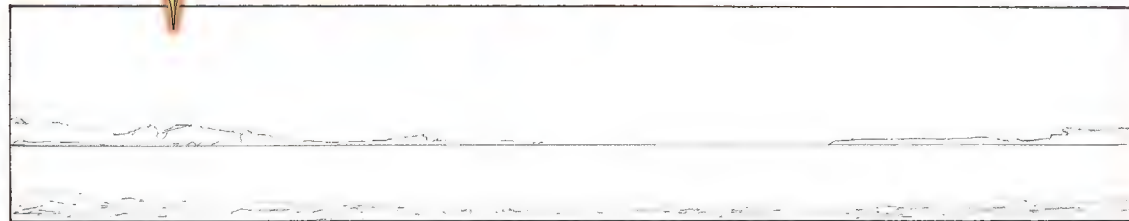
**THE GROUNDBREAKING FIVE-PART MINI-SERIES
CREATING A UNITED ASPEN UNIVERSE**

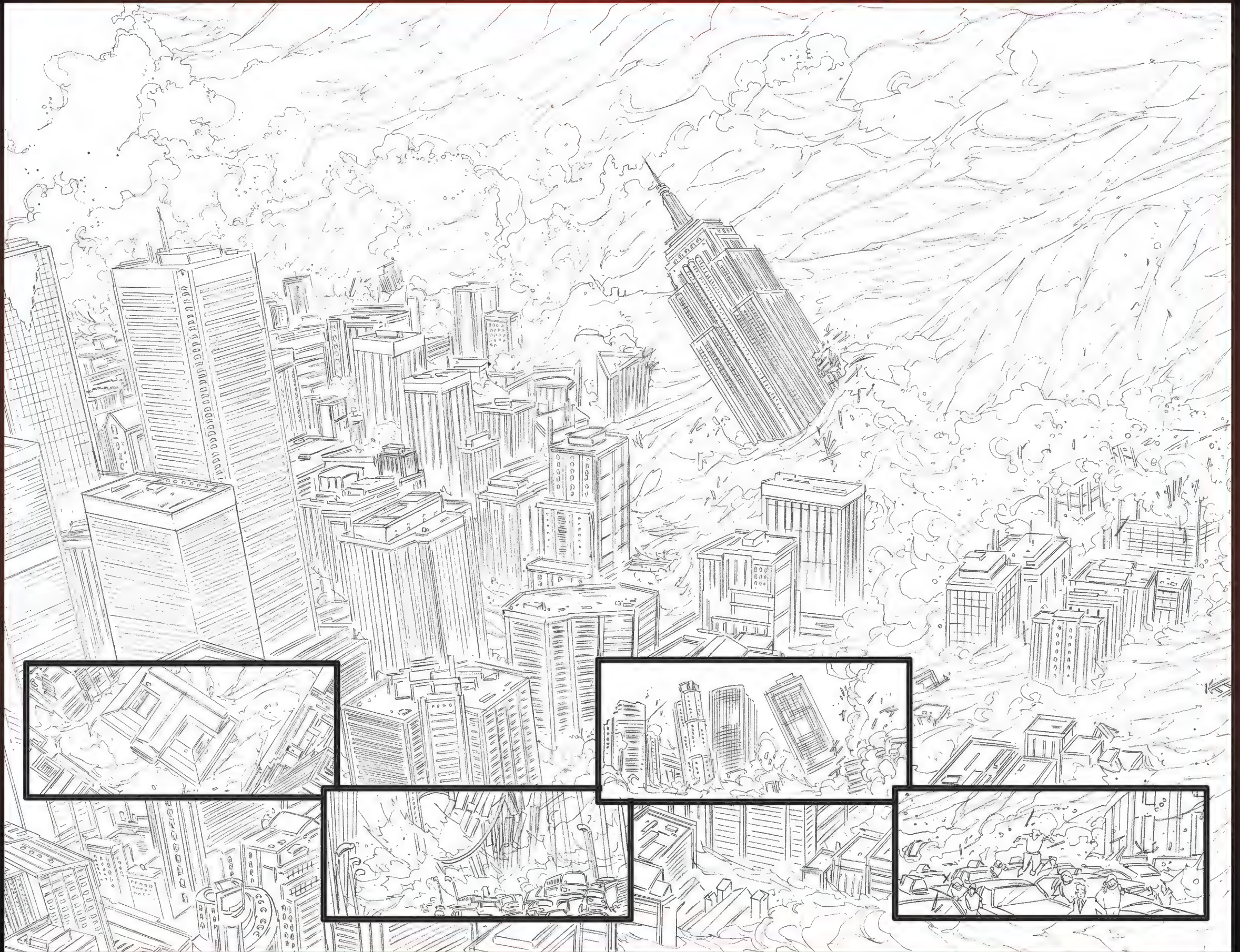
ASPEN UNIVERSE REVELATIONS



ASPEN UNIVERSE REVELATIONS

AN INSIDE LOOK AT GIUSEPPE CAFARO'S
GUEST PENCILS FROM THE NEXT EXCITING ISSUE OF
ASPEN COMICS' MEGA CROSSOVER EVENT SERIES!





ASPEN UNIVERSE REVELATIONS



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comics

Vol. 1

COVER A

FIALKOV
KRUL
GUNDERSON
CAFARO
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LAST ISSUE:

Aspen Matthews and Malikai discovered that Halazeel and a malevolent Grace pose a much greater threat to mankind's existence than simply the threat of their magical abilities, as their damaging effect on the world sends ripples through the present and future. However, while Aspen manages to utilize her powers to fight them off briefly in the present, Malikai and herself soon realize they are in the presence of the rogue dissident Kilian and his warrior daughter, Kiani...

Joshua Hale **Fialkov**
& J.T. **Krul**
script

Jordan **Gunderson** & Giuseppe Cafaro
pencils

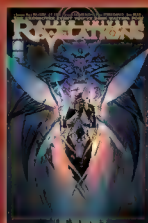
Mark **Roslan** & Gabe Carrasco
digital ink

Peter **Steigerwald** & Josh Reed
colors

Josh **Reed**
lettering



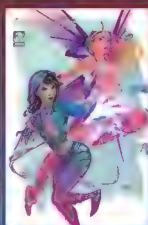
Direct Edition
by JORDAN GUNDERSON
& PETER STEIGERWALD



Direct Edition
by PETER STEIGERWALD



Comic-Con Edition
GIUSEPPE CAFARO
& PETER STEIGERWALD



Comic-Con Edition
MICHAEL GINNINELLI

REVELATIONS: PART 3

Featuring Aspen Matthews, Malikai, and Kilian

Editors: VINCE HERNANDEZ & GABE CARRASCO

Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD, GABE CARRASCO | Lettering font designed by ROBIN SPERAR, JOSH REED

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THIS IS MY WORLD.



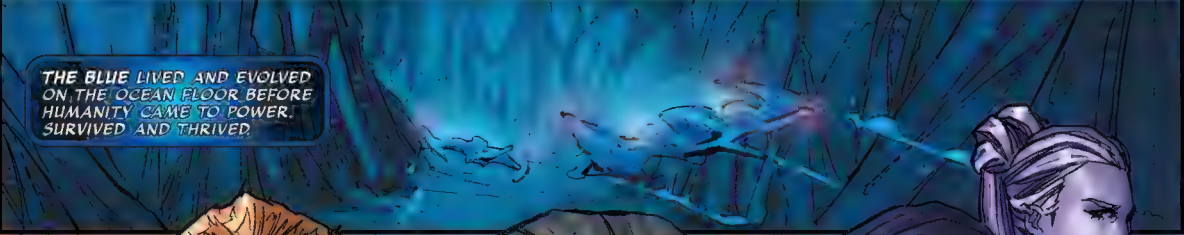
I GREW UP LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.
LIVED MY LIFE IN SAN DIEGO.

WENT TO SCHOOL.
STUDIED SWAM. A LOT.

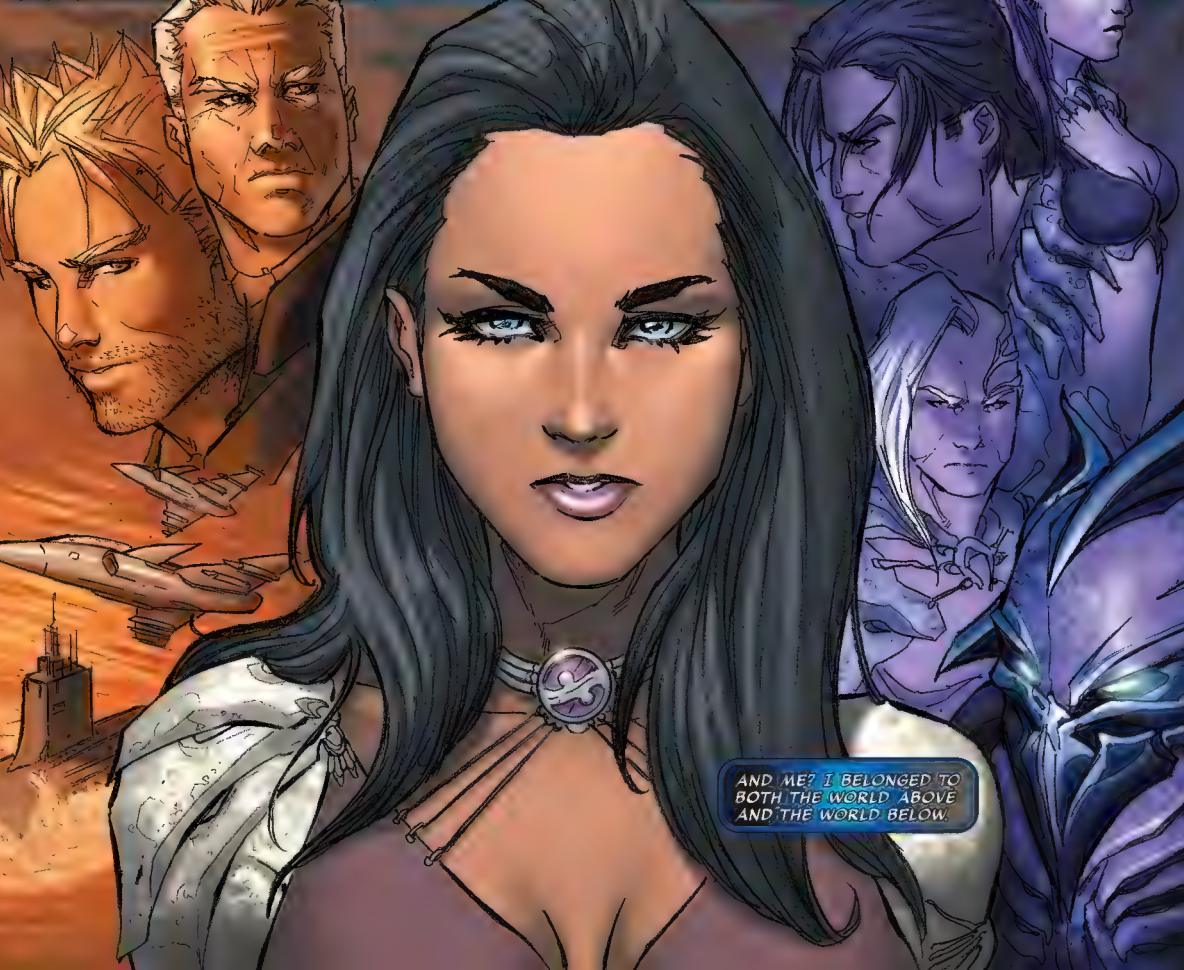


ALWAYS FELT AT HOME IN THE
WATER. GUESS THAT SHOULD
HAVE BEEN MY FIRST CLUE.

TURNS OUT THAT UNDERNEATH
IT, ALL THERE WAS SOMETHING
ELSE--SOMETHING MORE.



THE BLUE LIVED AND EVOLVED
ON THE OCEAN FLOOR BEFORE
HUMANITY CAME TO POWER.
SURVIVED AND THRIVED.



AND ME? I BELONGED TO
BOTH THE WORLD ABOVE
AND THE WORLD BELOW.



IT WAS MY
WORLD.



WAS?
WHAT IS
THAT SUPPOSED
TO MEAN?

BECAUSE THIS
IS ALL GONE. I
WATCHED IT
ALL DIE.

YOU'RE
NOT MAKING
ANY SENSE,
ASPEN.

SERIOUSLY,
I THINK YOU'VE
BEEN OUT OF THE
WATER TOO LONG.
YOUR BRAIN'S
DRIED UP.

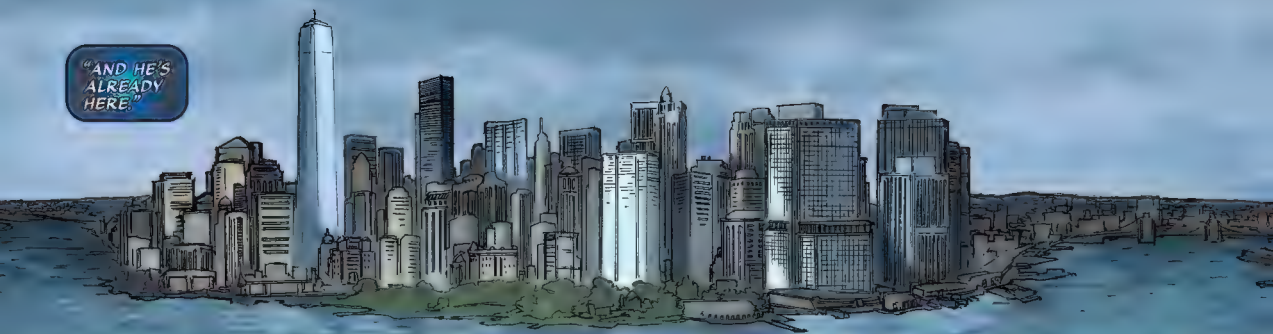
SHE'S TELLING THE
TRUTH. BELIEVE ME. A
WAR IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
ONE THAT WILL WIPE OUT
VIRTUALLY ALL LIFE AS
YOU KNOW IT.

ONE
THAT WILL
DESTROY *YOUR*
PRESENT AND
MY FUTURE.

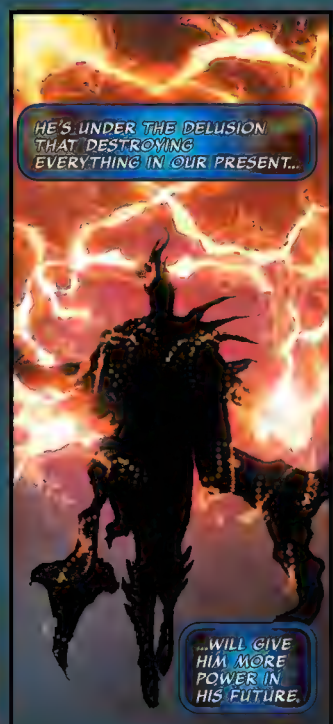
I DO NOT TRUST THE HUMANS.
NEVER HAVE, BUT EVEN I ADMIT
THAT THEY HAVE ENOUGH SENSE
OF SELF-INTEREST NOT TO
START A WAR THEY KNOW
WILL END EVERYTHING.

THAT'S THE
PROBLEM. THERE'S
SOMEONE WHO WANTS
EXACTLY THAT.

"AND HE'S
ALREADY
HERE."



HIS NAME IS HALAZEEL.
SOME DEMENTED GOD-
TYPE FIGURE FROM A
FUTURE THAT YOU
DON'T WANT TO SEE.



HE'S UNDER THE DELUSION
THAT DESTROYING
EVERYTHING IN OUR PRESENT...

...WILL GIVE
HIM MORE
POWER IN
HIS FUTURE.

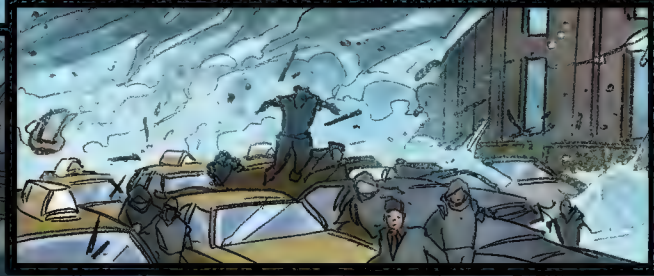
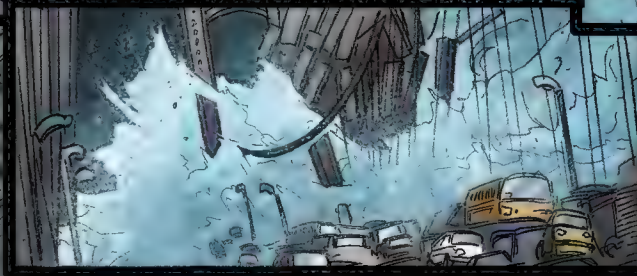
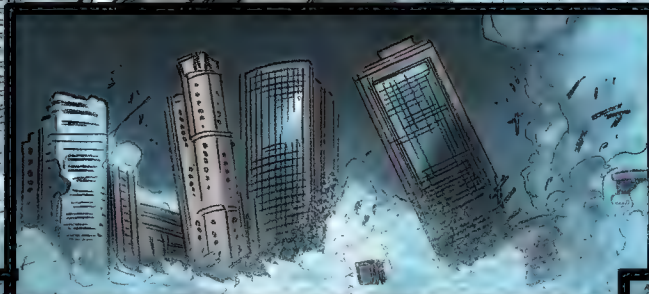
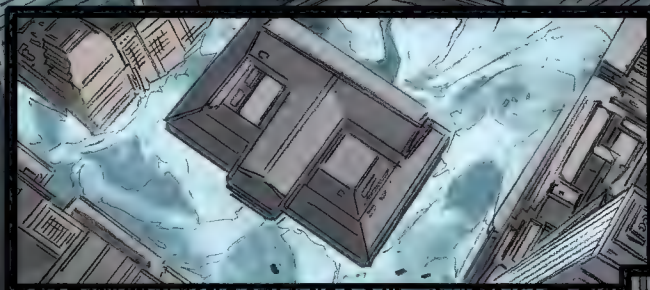


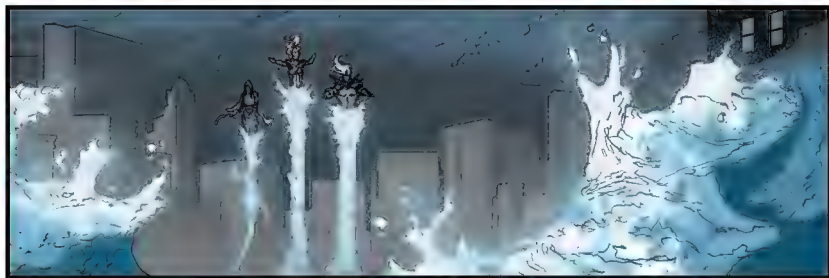
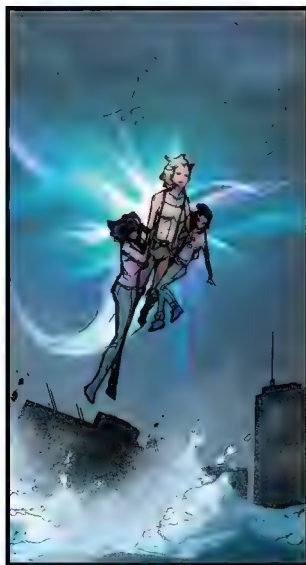
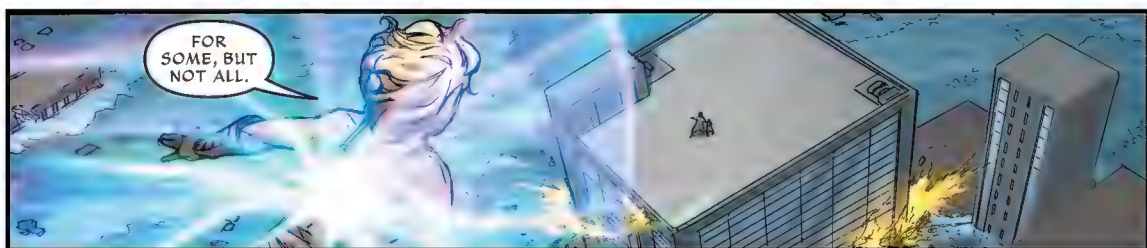
WE HAVE TO
STOP HIM.

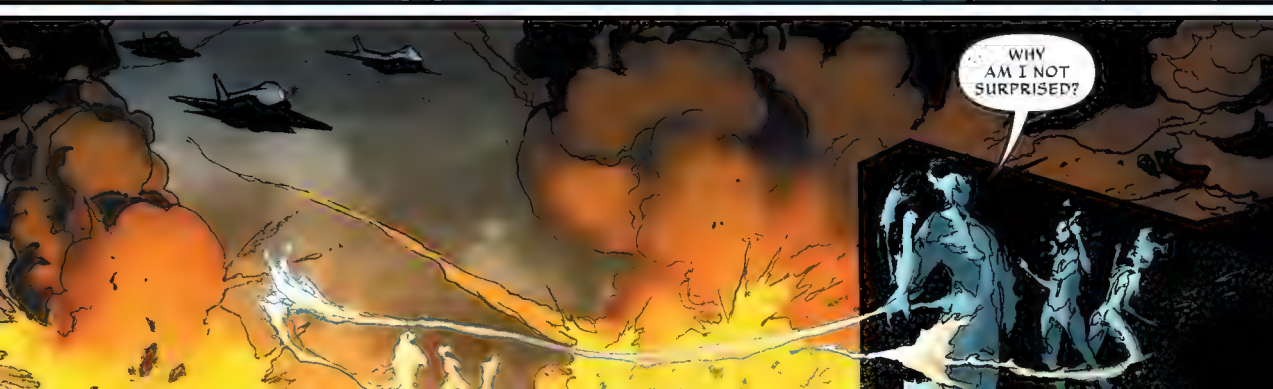
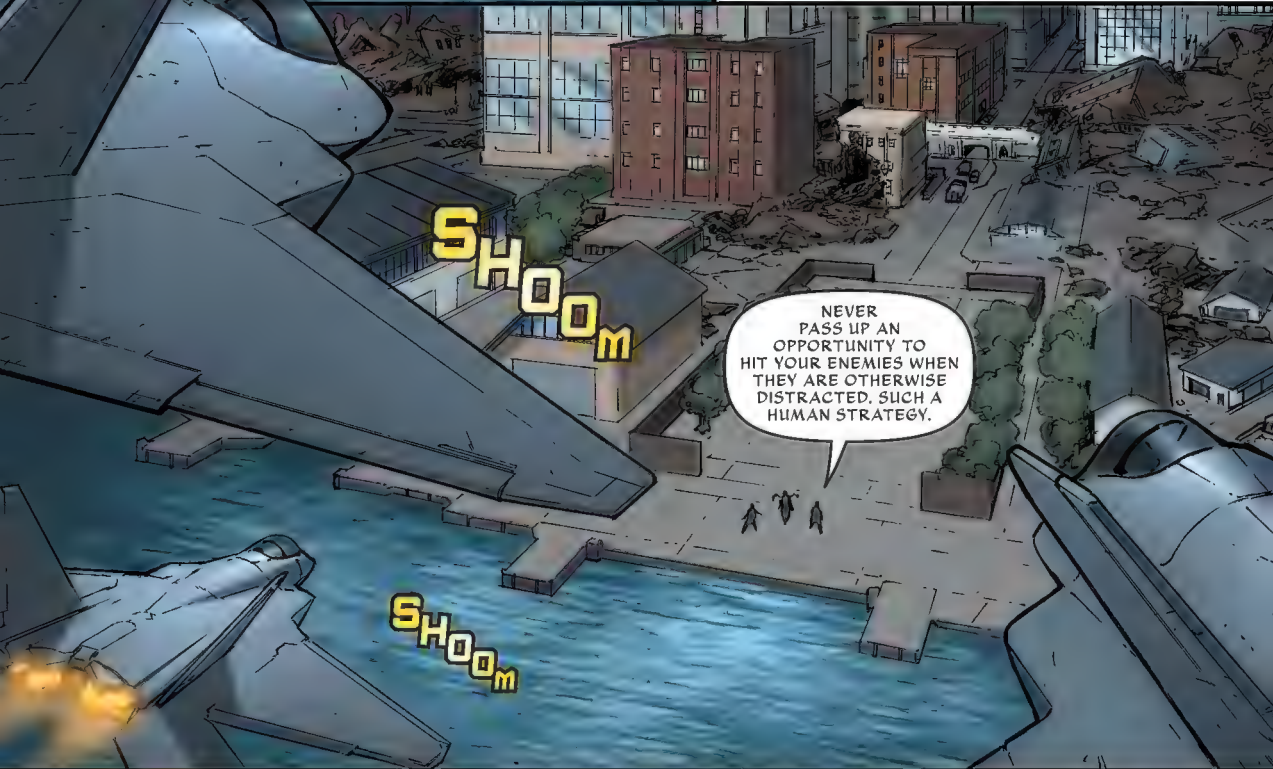


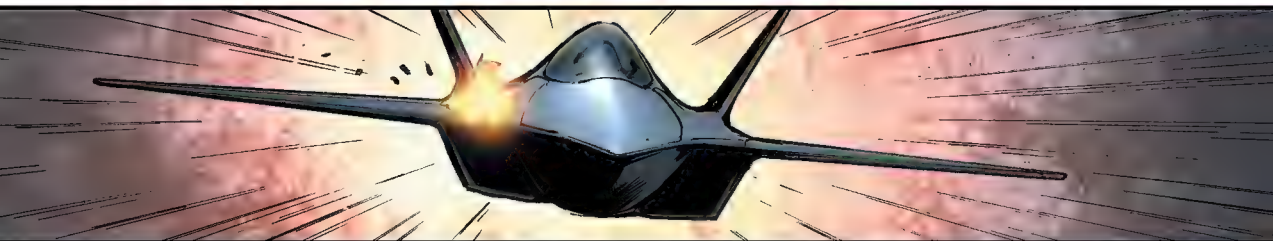
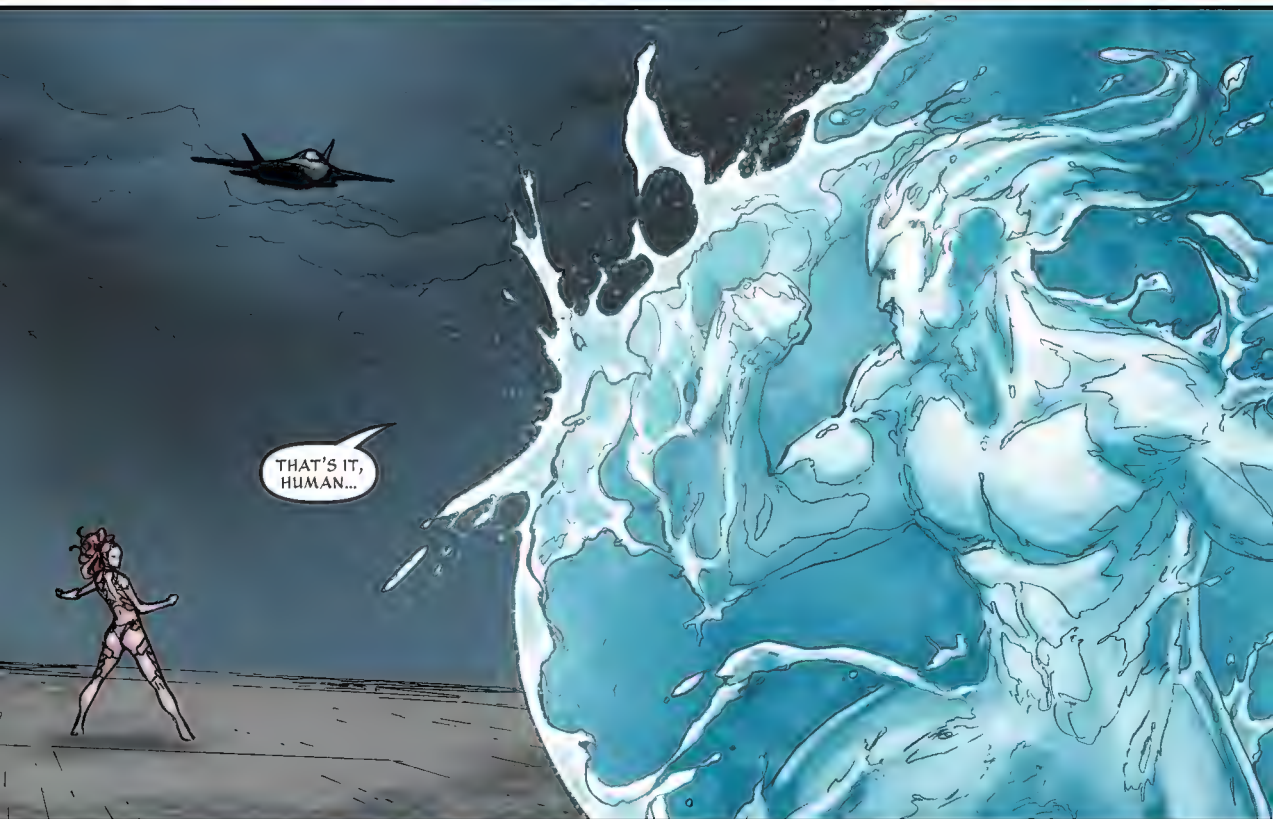
AND SO IT
BEGINS.

"AND SO,
IT ENDS."











KILLIAN!

I HAD
EVERYTHING UNDER
CONTROL.



IF STARTING A WAR IS
CONSIDERED UNDER
CONTROL.

THEY
ATTACKED US
FIRST.

SURE.
BECAUSE THANKS
TO THAT MANIAC THEY
THOUGHT WE WERE
RESPONSIBLE FOR
ALL OF THIS.

THEY ALWAYS
BLAME US. FOR
EVERYTHING.



THEY'RE
GETTING
BETTER.



NNNNN...



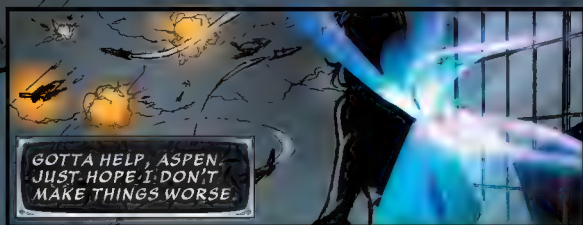
I'VE
LOST...
I'VE LOST
IT ALL.



AND, IT SEEMS.
LIKE THINGS ARE
GETTING WORSE.



HOW LONG
CAN I KEEP
THIS UP?



GOTTA HELP, ASPEN.
JUST HOPE I DON'T
MAKE THINGS WORSE.

YOU
THINK YOU
ARE HELPING, BUT
YOU DON'T SEE THE
BIG PICTURE,
BOY.



THEIR
CHAOS IS OUR
ORDER.

KABOOOM!



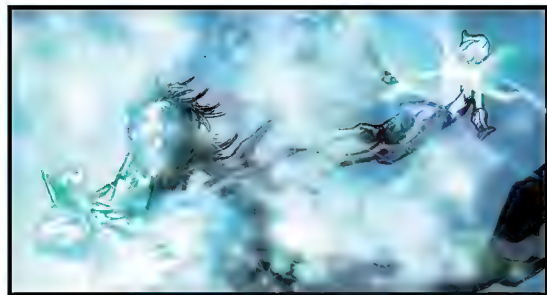
PLEASE
DON'T PUT
US IN THE SAME
GROUP. WE'RE
NOTHING
ALIKE.

ASPEN WAS RIGHT. HE'S
TRYING TO INFLECT AS MUCH
DAMAGE AS POSSIBLE.



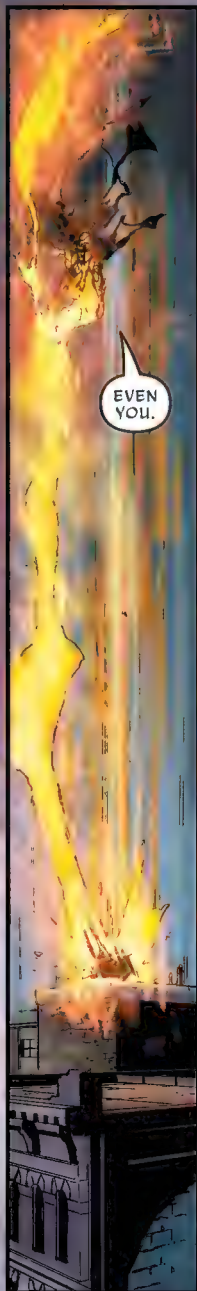
NOW,
I KNOW
YOU DON'T
BELIEVE
THAT.

MAYBE I CAN DRAW HIM AWAY
SO HIS AGGRESSION WILL ONLY
COME AT ME. LET THE PEOPLE
GET TO A SAFE PLACE.



IF THAT
EVEN EXISTS
ANYMORE.



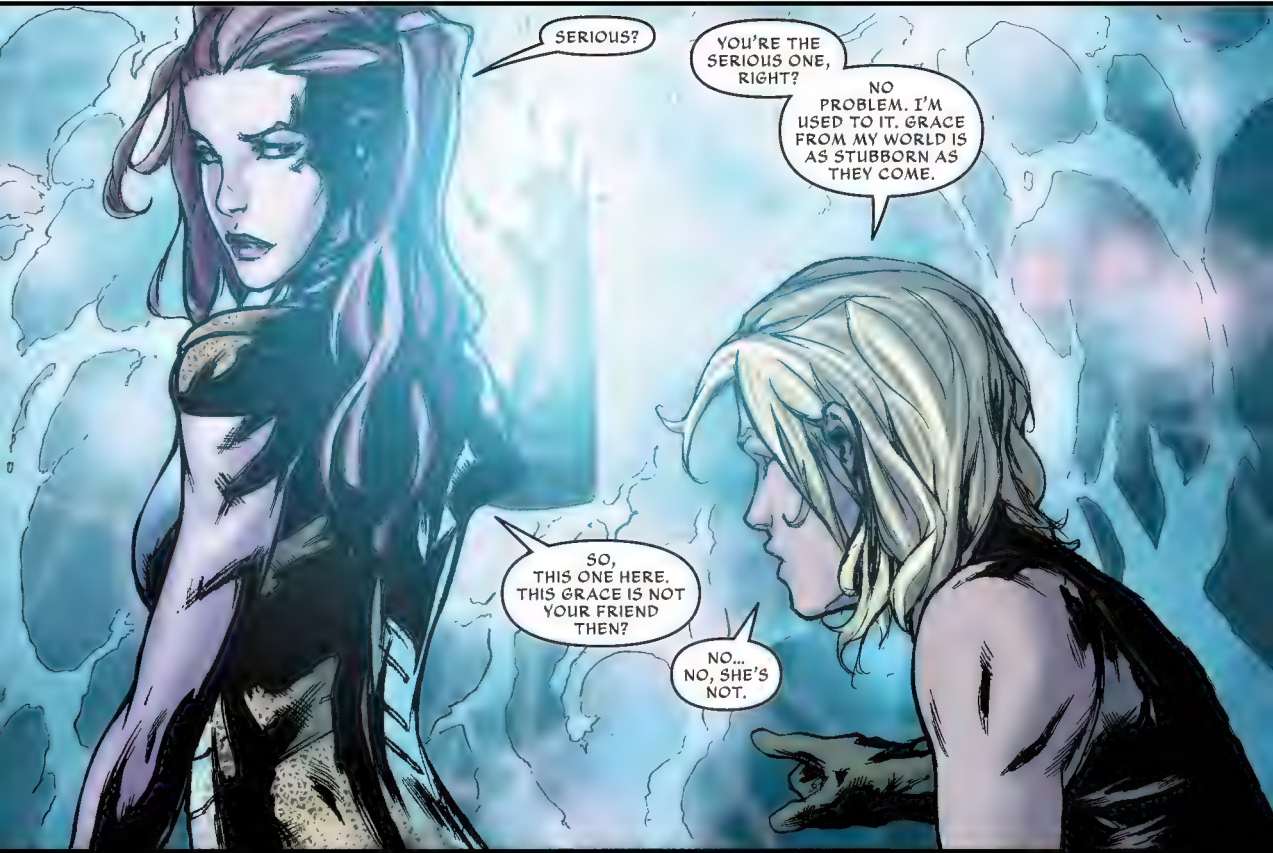




THANKS.

MAGIC.

WHAT KIND
OF POWER
IS THIS?



SERIOUS?

YOU'RE THE
SERIOUS ONE,
RIGHT?

NO
PROBLEM. I'M
USED TO IT. GRACE
FROM MY WORLD IS
AS STUBBORN AS
THEY COME.

SO,
THIS ONE HERE.
THIS GRACE IS NOT
YOUR FRIEND
THEN?

NO...
NO, SHE'S
NOT.



NNNNN...

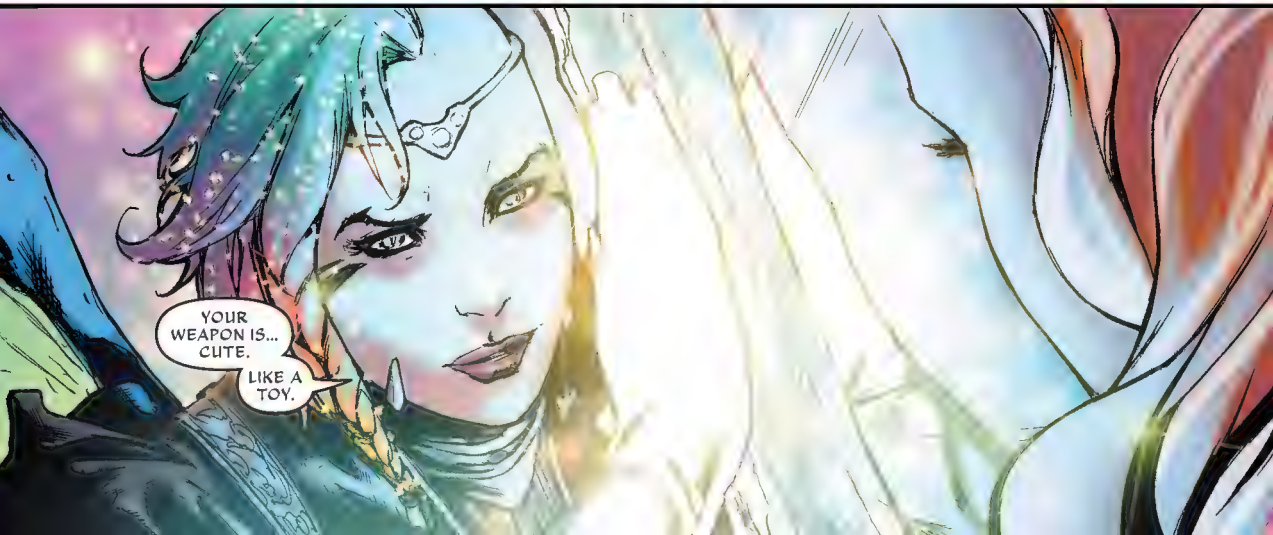


THAT'S
ALL I NEEDED
TO HEAR.



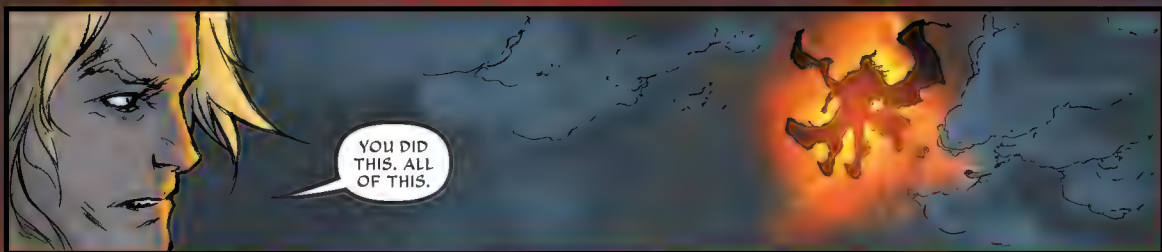
WARRIOR
TO WARRIOR.
BITCH TO
BITCH.

YOU'RE
GOING
DOWN.



YOUR
WEAPON IS...
CUTE.

LIKE A
TOY.



YOU DID
THIS. ALL
OF THIS.



YOU TURNED
GRACE THAT
WAY. POISONED
HER SOUL.

AS
SAMUSARA, I
AFFECT ALL MAGIC
AND EVERYONE
WITH IT.

SHE IS MINE TO
SHAPE AND MOLD
INTO THAT WHICH IS
BEST FOR MAGIC'S
SURVIVAL.

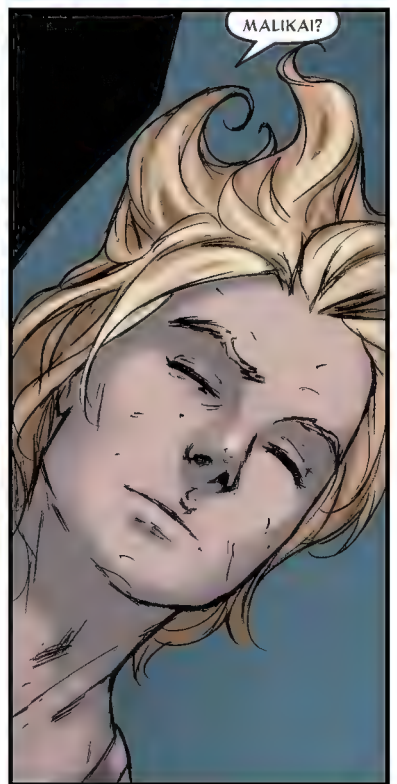


THE GRACE
I KNOW WOULD
NEVER BE PLAYED
LIKE THAT.

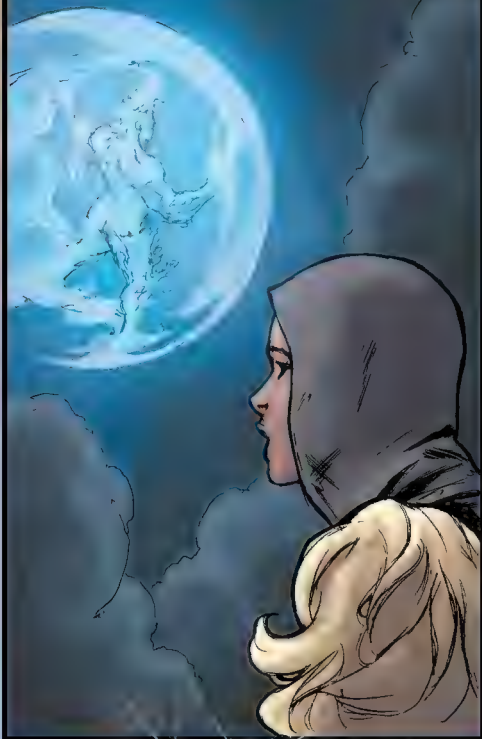


SHE IS
NOT YOUR
GRACE.

AND THE
MAGIC DOES
NOT BELONG TO
YOU. IT BELONGS
TO ME.



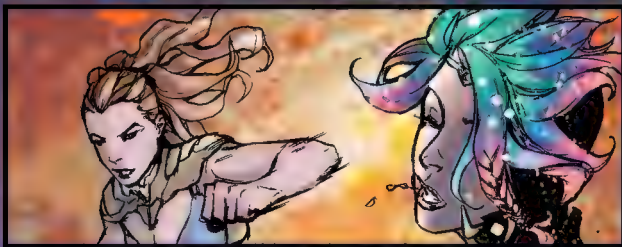
ALWAYS THE HUMANS DANCE CLOSE TO THE
EDGE, NEVER REALIZING HOW MUCH ASPEN
DOES TO KEEP THEM FROM FALLING OVER.



SHE TRULY IS
THEIR SAVIOR.
BUT, IS SHE
OURS AS WELL?

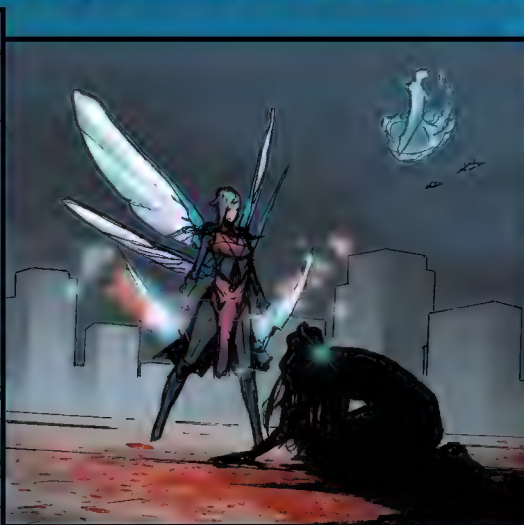


POWERS
ARE GOOD,
BUT THEY CAN BE
A CRUTCH. YOU
RELY ON THEM
TOO MUCH.



WHO'S
USING A
CRUTCH
NOW?





ALWAYS KNEW THIS
DAY WOULD COME.

PLANET JUST AIN'T
BIG ENOUGH FOR
HUMANS AND THE
BLUE TO CO-EXIST.

ADMIRAL,
THE USS KANSAS
AND HER FLEET
ARE CLOSING IN
ON THE EASTERN
COASTLINE.

TWENTY
MINUTES
OUT.

ADDITIONAL
FIGHTERS ARE
BEING DEPLOYED
FROM ANDERS AND
WESTOVER AS
WE SPEAK.

THEY ATTACK.
WE RESPOND.

ADMIRAL
MAYLANDER?

WE ATTACK.
THEY RESPOND.

DO I GO THROUGH
THE MOTIONS, NOW?
PLAY THIS GAME OF
BACK AND FORTH?

IF WE ARE
TO HAVE ANY
CHANCE, IS
THERE EVEN
A CHOICE?



THIS ISN'T A
STRATEGIC MOVE.

IT'S AN
END GAME.

THAT'S WHY
WE CALL HIM
"LITTLE BOY."

7
TO BE CONTINUED...

ASPEN UNIVERSE REVELATIONS



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STEIGERWALD
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#4
OF 5



LAST ISSUE:

Confrontations arose as humanity took the full brunt of Halazeel and Grace's quest to increase their magical reign in their future by sabotaging the world in the present. As cities fell, Aspen and Malikai encountered Killian and his daughter, Krani, and attempted to thwart the end of the world. But, the humans refused to simply roll over and die at the hands of greater forces—as Admiral Maylander revealed his own “end game” to use the Blue's own powers against them...

Joshua Hale **Fialkov**
& J.T. **Krul**
script

Jordan **Gunderson**
pencils

Mark **Roslan** & Gabe Carrasco
digital ink

Peter **Steigerwald** & Josh Reed
color

Josh **Reed**
lettering



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REVELATIONS: PART 4

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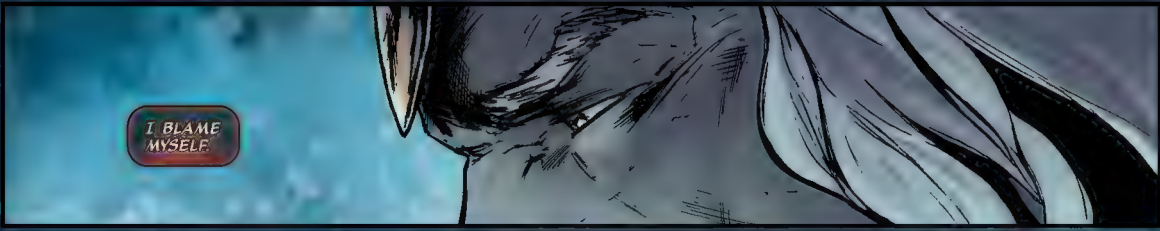
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I BLAME
MYSELF



MY KIANI WAS
ALWAYS STRONG,
A FIGHTER.

STANDING UP TO HER FRIENDS,
HER ENEMIES, BLUE, HUMAN--
EVEN ME, IT DIDN'T MATTER.

BUT I WAS
HER FATHER.

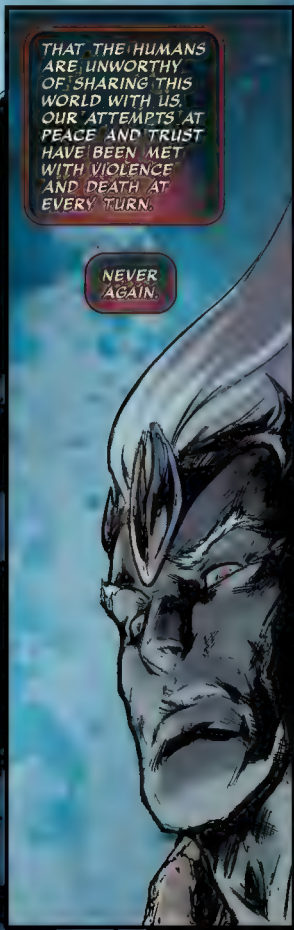
IT WAS MY DUTY
TO PROTECT HER.

TO PREPARE HER FOR
WHATEVER DANGERS
MAY COME.



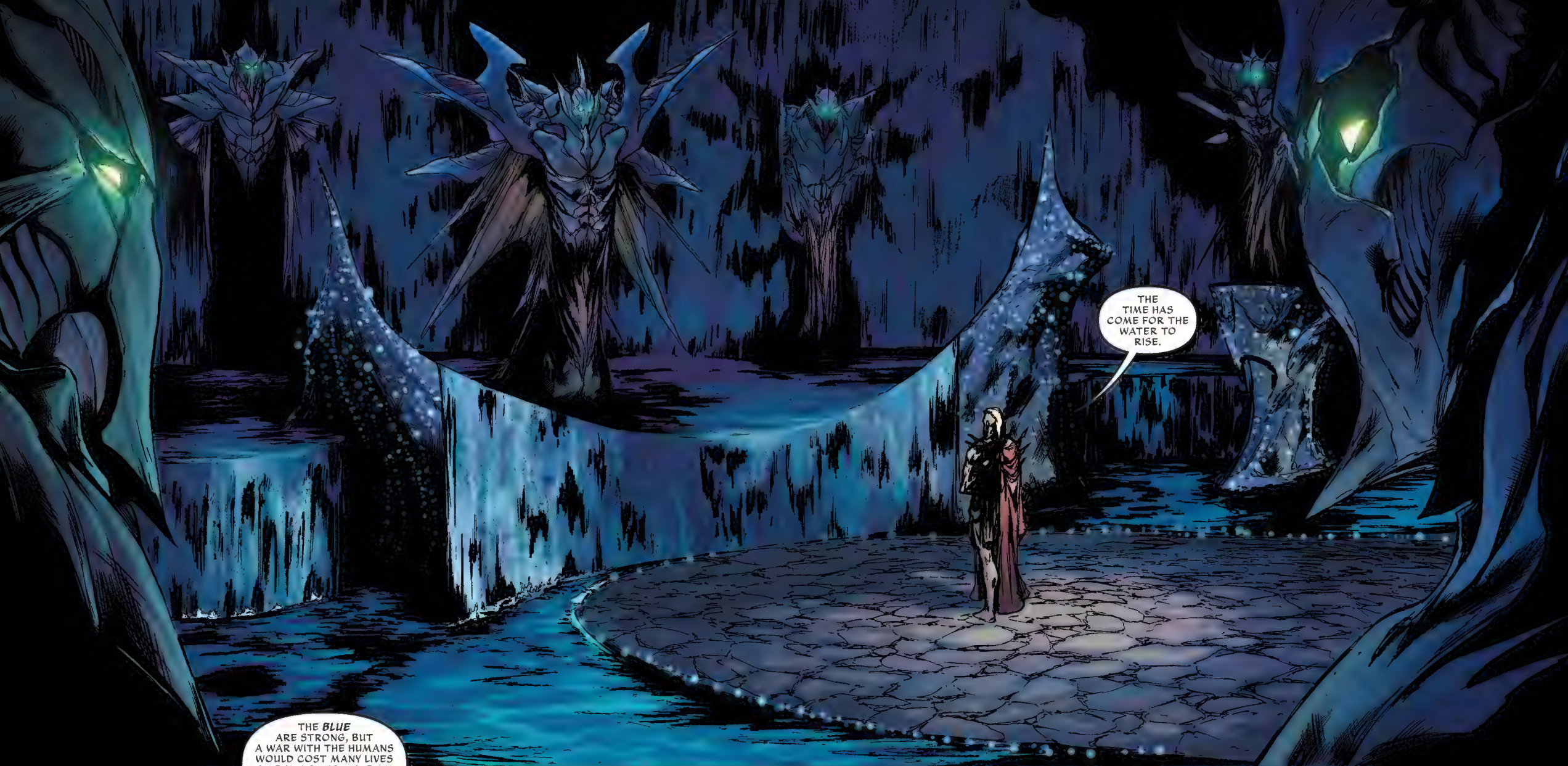
I FAILED

I FAILED TO STAY TRUE TO
MY INSTINCTS, TO BELIEVE
THE MOST BASIC TRUTH



THAT THE HUMANS
ARE UNWORTHY
OF SHARING THIS
WORLD WITH US.
OUR ATTEMPTS AT
PEACE AND TRUST
HAVE BEEN MET
WITH VIOLENCE
AND DEATH AT
EVERY TURN.

NEVER
AGAIN.



THE
TIME HAS
COME FOR THE
WATER TO
RISE.



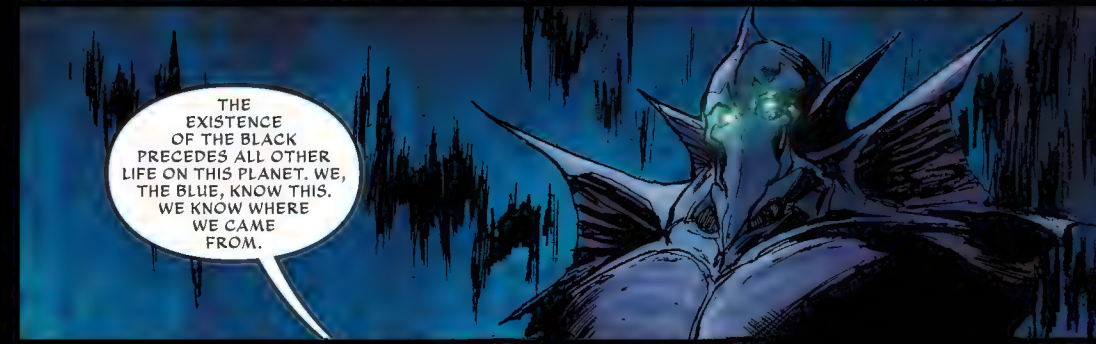
THE **BLUE**
ARE STRONG, BUT
A WAR WITH THE HUMANS
WOULD COST MANY LIVES
ON BOTH SIDES. NO, I AM
NOT TALKING ABOUT A
WAR. I SPEAK OF
ANNIHILATION.

I SPEAK OF
THE POWER OF
THE BLACK.



LAST TIME,
I CHOSE THE
WRONG SIDE.

I LET ASPEN
CONVINCE ME THERE
WAS ANOTHER WAY.
THERE IS NOT.



THE
EXISTENCE
OF THE BLACK
PRECEDES ALL OTHER
LIFE ON THIS PLANET. WE,
THE BLUE, KNOW THIS.
WE KNOW WHERE
WE CAME
FROM.



IN THE END,
THE HUMANS
SHALL KNOW IT
AS WELL.

R EAT NEW JERSEY

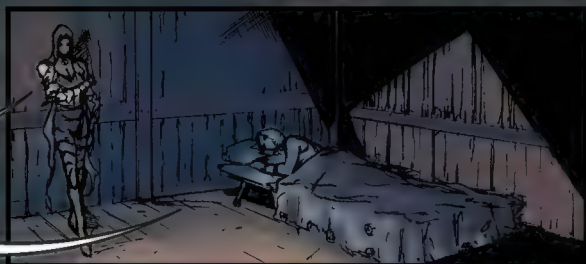
IT'S NEXT MORNING

HOW
DO YOU
FEEL?

WEAK.
HALAZEEL STOLE
MY VERY LIFE FORCE.
IT'S A WEIRD THING
SHARING YOUR SOUL
WITH ANOTHER.
LITERALLY.

CAN YOU
GET YOUR
POWER
BACK?

IT WILL
TAKE TIME, BUT,
HOPEFULLY.



HOW
ARE YOU?
YOU SEEMED TO
TAKE QUITE A
BEATING BACK
THERE.

I'M FINE.
NOTHING
I HAVEN'T
ENDURED
BEFORE.

I DON'T
MEAN
PHYSICALLY.
I CAN FEEL
YOUR SOUL
ACHE.

THAT'S THE
WORST PICKUP
LINE I'VE HEARD
IN A WHILE.



YOU MAKE
JOKES BECAUSE
IF YOU DON'T--

--LOOK,
I'VE WATCHED
THIS ALL BEFORE.
EVERYTHING AND
EVERYONE DYING. YOU
DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHAT IT'S LIKE TO
FEEL HELPLESS...



I DO,
ACTUALLY.

AND
WE *AREN'T*
HELPLESS. I
WILL REGAIN
MY POWER AND
WE WILL STOP
HALAZEEL--



IT'S TOO
LATE FOR
THAT. WE HAVE
TO STOP THE
WAR--

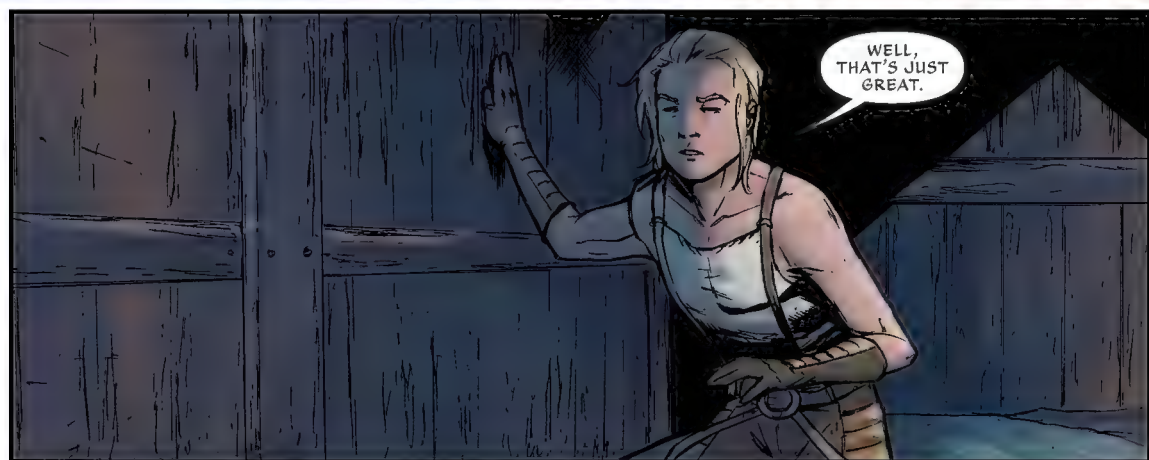
IF WE
STOP HIM,
WE *WILL* STOP
THE WAR.

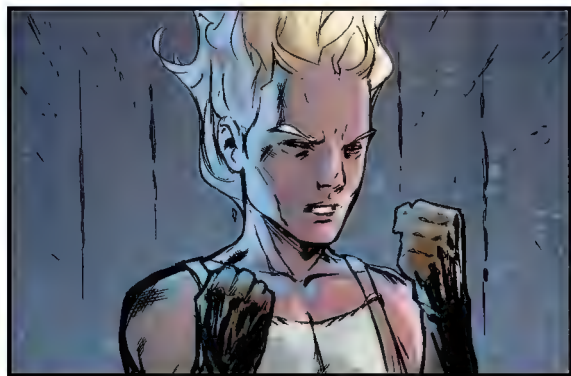
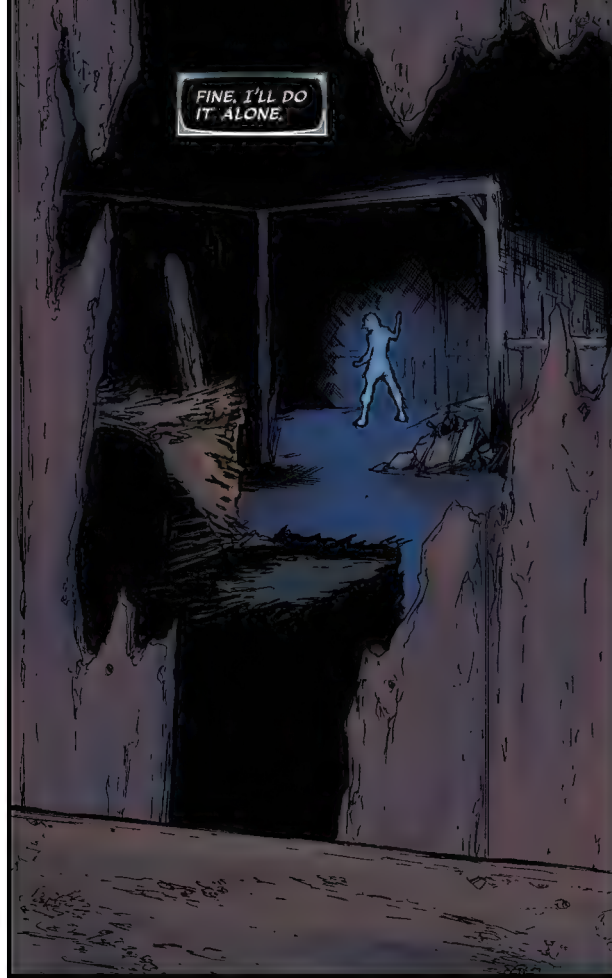


ALL OF THIS
MIGHT'VE BEEN
ESCALATED BY HIM,
BUT, IT IS FOUGHT
AND LOST BY THE
BLUE AND THE
HUMANS.

WE HAVE
TO STOP
THEM--

ASPEN,
YOU HAVE TO
TRUST ME.







NO ONE UNDERSTANDS
WHAT IS COMING. THEY
CANNOT SEE FAR
ENOUGH DOWN THIS
PATH WE ARE ON.

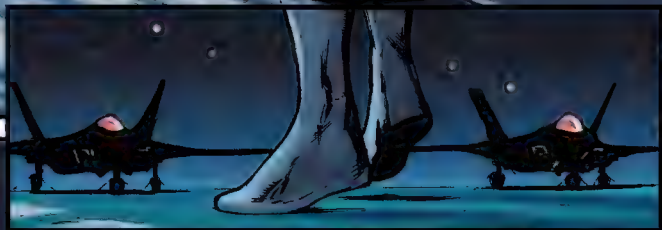
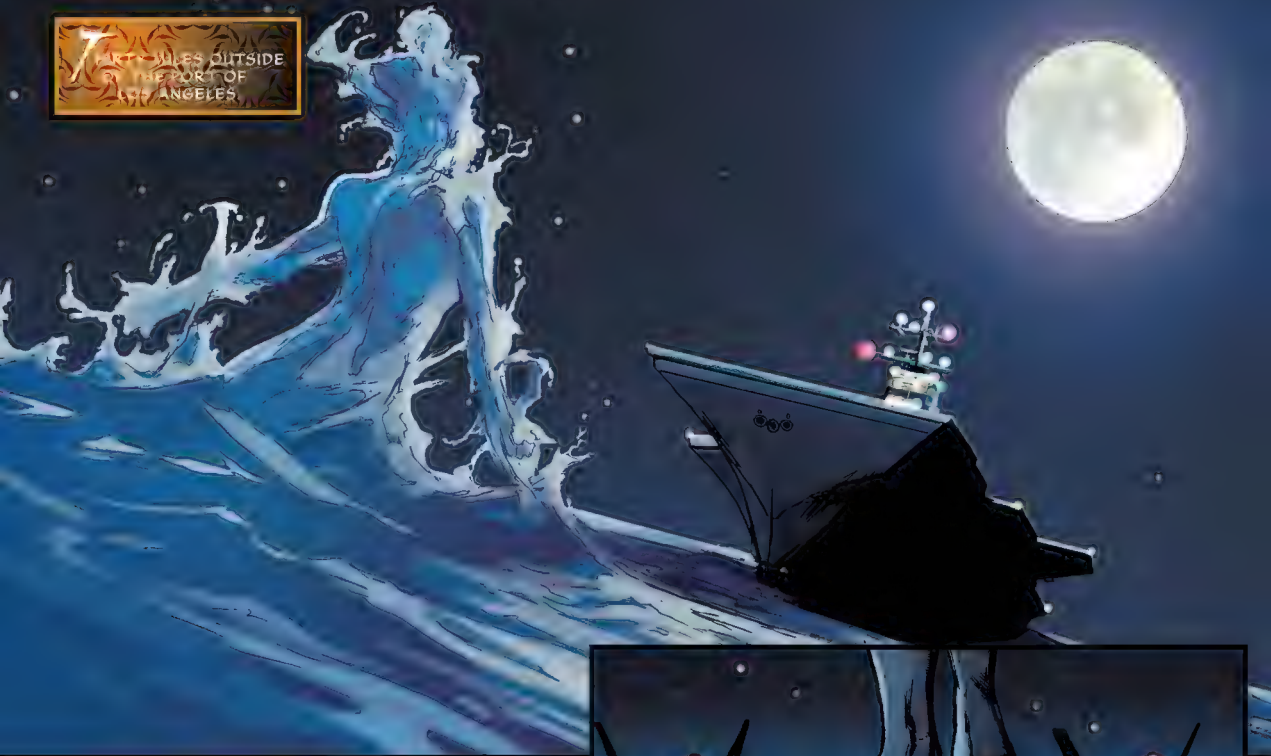
BUT, I DO. AND I WON'T LET
THEM DESTROY EVERYTHING.

IF THEY WON'T ACCEPT
THE BALANCE BETWEEN
THE WORLD ABOVE
AND THE ONE BELOW,
THEN I WILL REMOVE
THEIR CHOICE.

HALAZEEL WILL BE STOPPED
WITHOUT HIM, EVERYTHING
WILL RETURN TO NORMAL.
MY FRIENDS WILL BE ALIVE
AND NOT WEIRDO EVIL
VERSIONS OF THEMSELVES.

I WILL FIND HIM,
AND I WILL END HIM,
BECAUSE IF I DON'T,
THEN EVERYTHING I
LOVE WILL DIE.

70 MILES OUTSIDE
THE PORT OF
LOS ANGELES.



I DIDN'T COME
TO FIGHT. MY NAME
IS ASPEN MATTHEWS.
WHERE IS ADMIRAL
MAYLANDER?



YOU SHOULD KNOW BY
NOW, ASPEN--I AM
EVERYWHERE.

LISTEN
ADMIRAL--



--YOU'RE TOO
LATE, GIRL.
WHAT'S DONE
CAN'T BE
UNDONE.

WE'RE
MONITORING
EVERY INCH
OF EVERY
COAST.

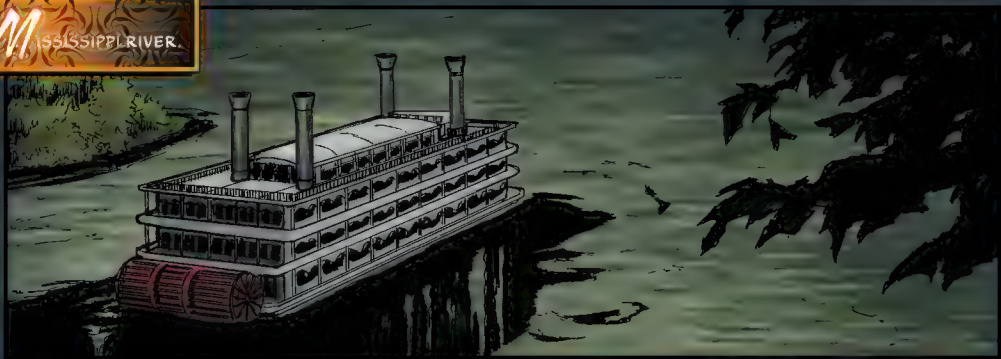
WE ARE
PREPARED
FOR ANY
SITUATION.
YOU WITH
US...

...OR DO
I TELL
MY MEN
TO START
FIRING?



IT'S NOT
THAT EASY,
ADMIRAL.

THERE'S
MORE TO THIS
WORLD'S WATER
THAN THE
COASTS.



KABOOM!

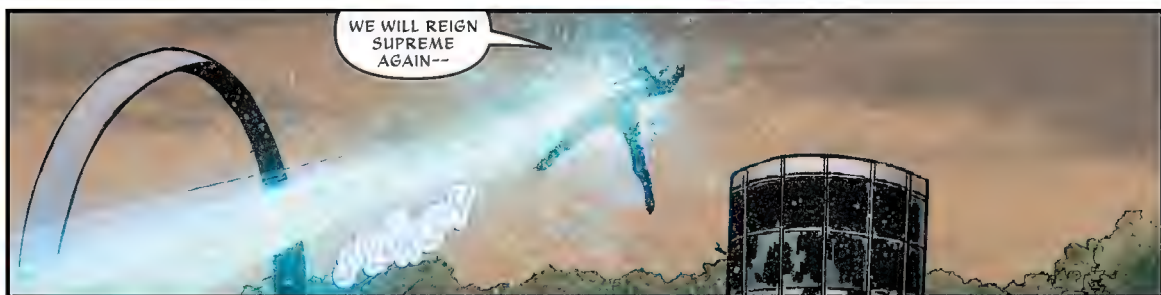








DESTROY
IT ALL! WIPE
THEM FROM THE
EARTH!



WE WILL REIGN
SUPREME
AGAIN--



→OOF!←

YOU
DAMN
FOOL.

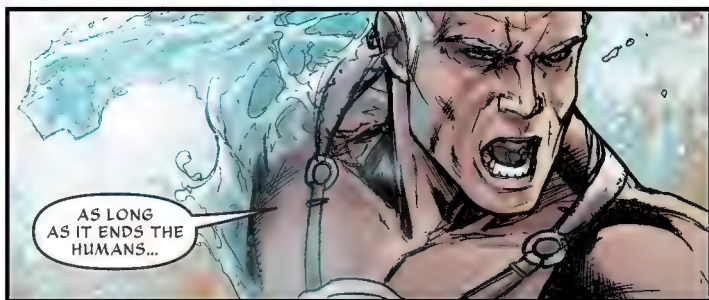


I'M THE FOOL?
YOU'RE THE ONE
WHO HAD THE
CHANCE TO ENSURE
OUR VICTORY.

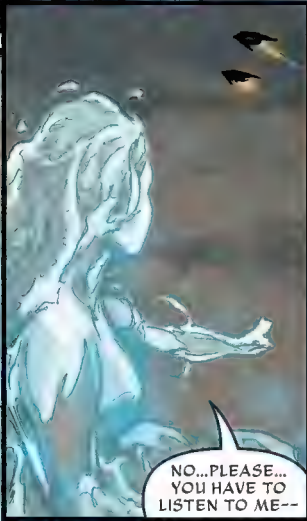
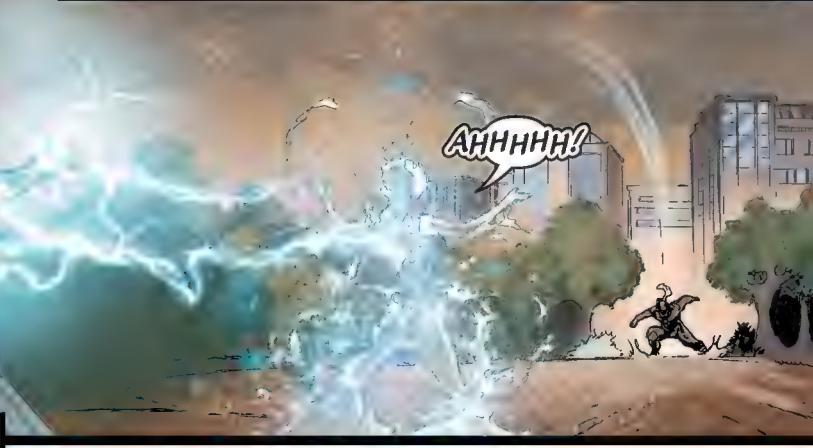
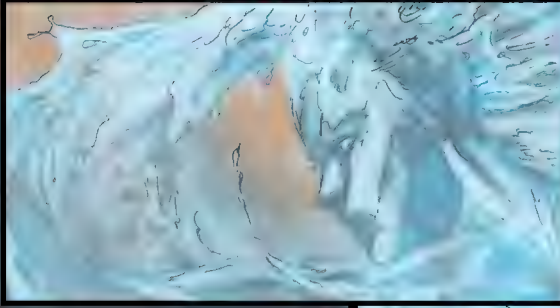
INSTEAD,
YOU CLUTCHED
AT SOME FANTASY
THAT THE BLUE AND
HUMANS COULD
CO-EXIST.

WELL, LOOK AROUND,
ASPEN. I TOLD YOU
THIS WAR WAS
INEVITABLE.

DAMMIT,
KILLIAN. THERE
ARE NO SIDES THIS
TIME. THIS WILL BE
THE END OF US ALL.



AS LONG
AS IT ENDS THE
HUMANS...





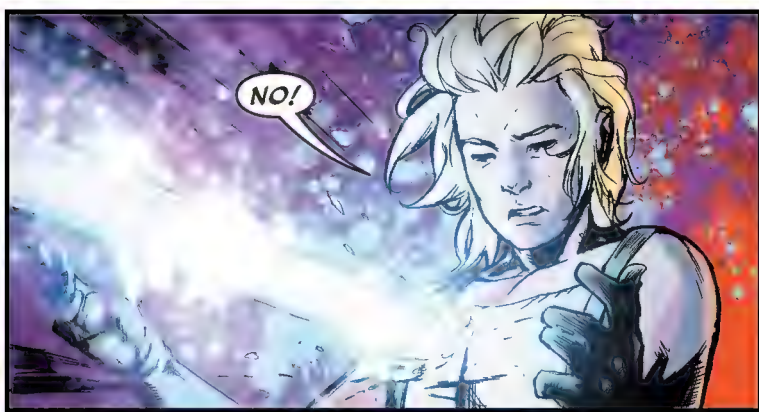
HE'S HERE.
SOMEWHERE.

SO GLAD
YOU CAME
TO JOIN US,
MALIKAI.

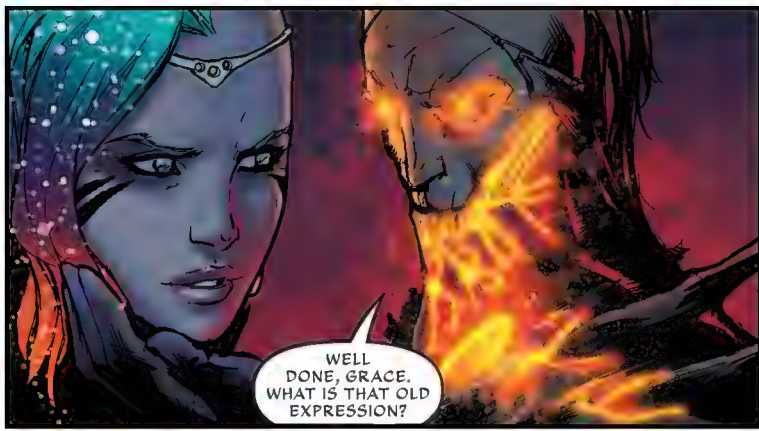


WAIT--

SHHH...



NO!



WELL
DONE, GRACE.
WHAT IS THAT OLD
EXPRESSION?



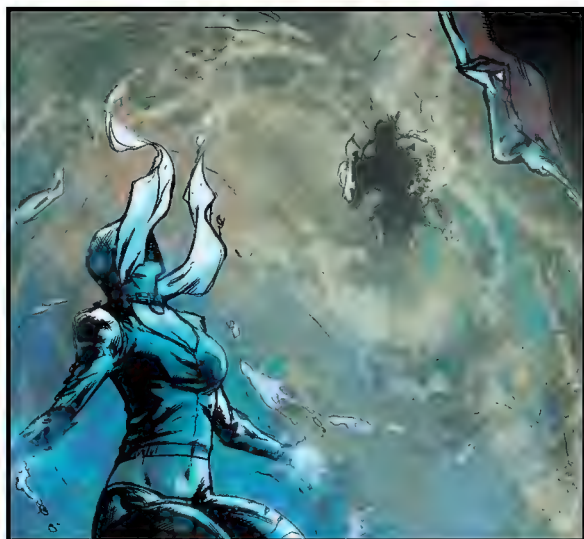
YOU
ALWAYS
HURT THE
ONES YOU
LOVE.



NO. I WILL NOT...WATCH...MY...WORLD...DIE...

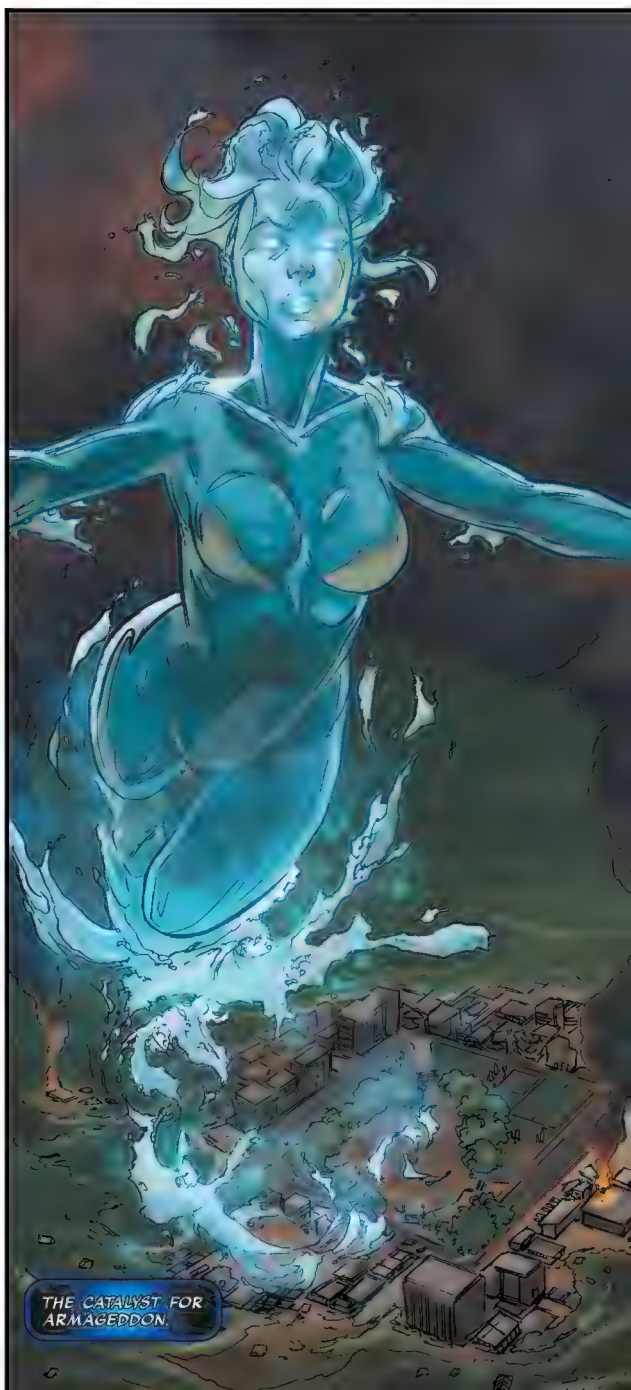


NO... MORE...



THIS IS IT.

THE DOOMSDAY DEVICE THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING.



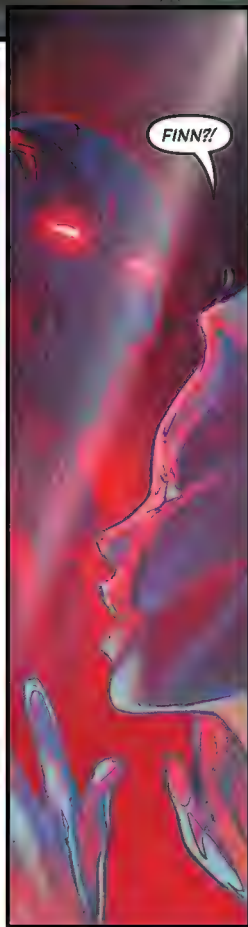
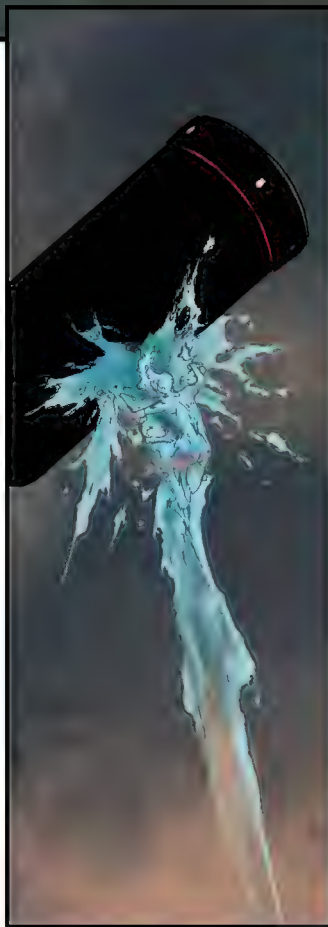
THE CATALYST FOR ARMAGEDDON.



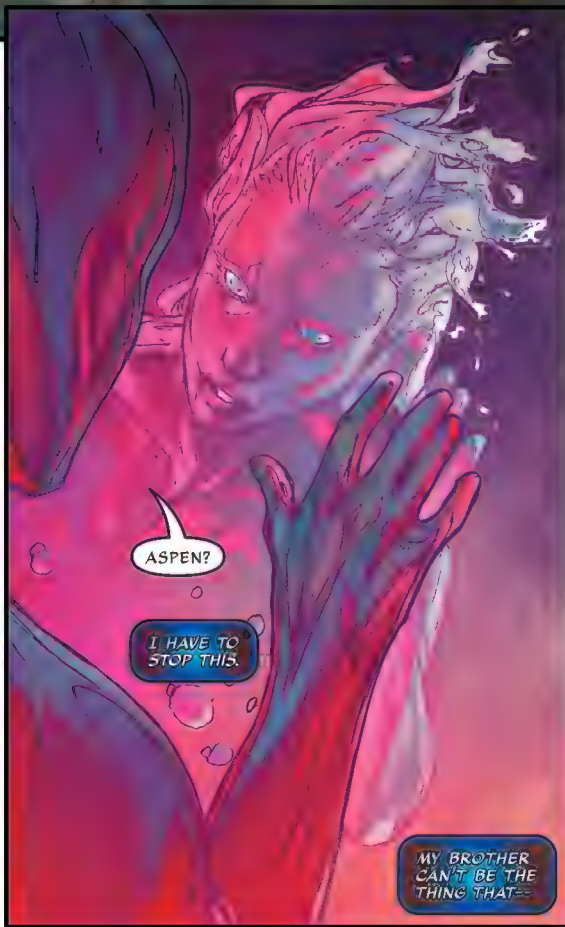
COME ON,
COME ON...



OH
GOD...THE
POISON!



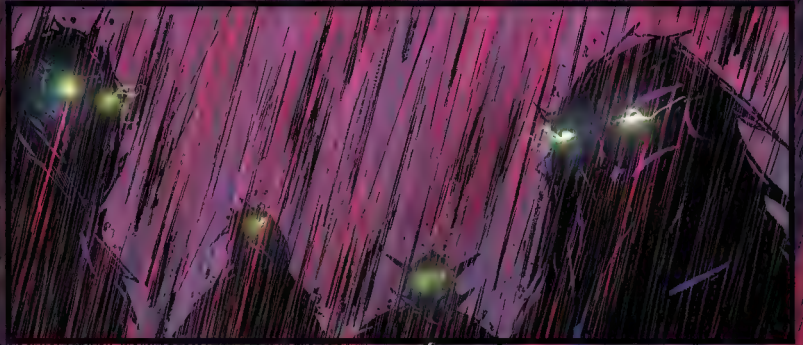
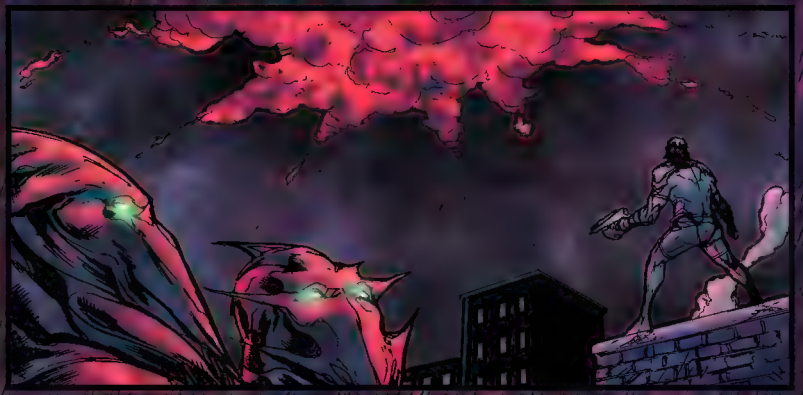
FINN?!



ASPEN?

I HAVE TO
STOP THIS.

MY BROTHER
CAN'T BE THE
THING THAT--



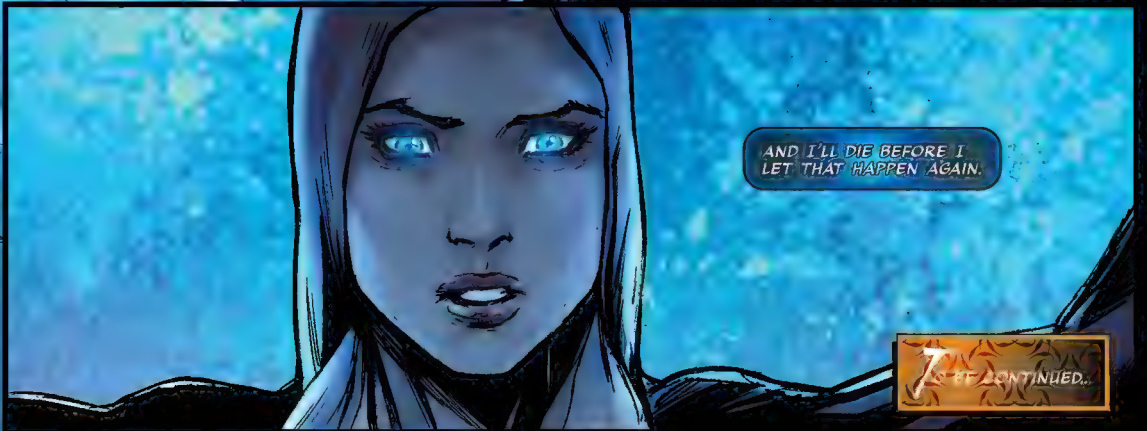
WHAT...
MANNER OF
WARFARE...

NO!



I WARNED
YOU! YOU WOULDN'T
LISTEN! AND NOW, THEY'VE
UNLEASHED A TOXIN THAT
WILL WIPE OUT ALL LIFE
ON THE PLANET.

BUT FIRST,
WILL BE THE
BLACK AND
THE **BLUE!**



AND I'LL DIE BEFORE I
LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN.

ASPEN UNIVERSE REVELATIONS



aspen
comics

Vol. 1

COVER A

FIALKOV
KRUH
GUNDERSON
STEIGERWALD
REED

#5
OF 5



GUNDERSON
AFTER
AND FOR
MICHAEL

ASPEN UNIVERSE REVELATIONS

#5
OF 5



Vol. 1
COVER B

FALKOV
KRUL
GUNDERSON
STEIGERWALD
REED



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LAST ISSUE:

Aspen and Malikai went their separate ways—with Malikai choosing to find Halazeel and put an end to him at any cost, even his own life. Meanwhile, the dissident Killian triggered the rise of The Black upon the surface world in order to wipe out all of humanity once and for all. However, Admiral Maylander had his own secret weapon in store for The Blue, one that painfully exploited one of Aspen's most beloved persons, her brother, Finn, by using him as a powerful toxic explosion that destroys all manner of The Blue on the planet.

Joshua Hale **Fialkov**
& J.T. **Krul**
script

Jordan **Gunderson**
pencils

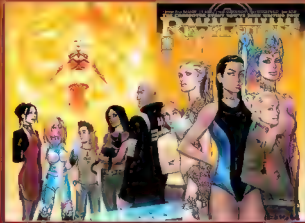
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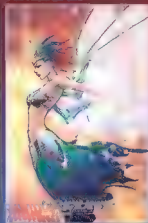
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REVELATIONS: PART 5

Featuring the return of the legendary Aspen Universe character, Finn!

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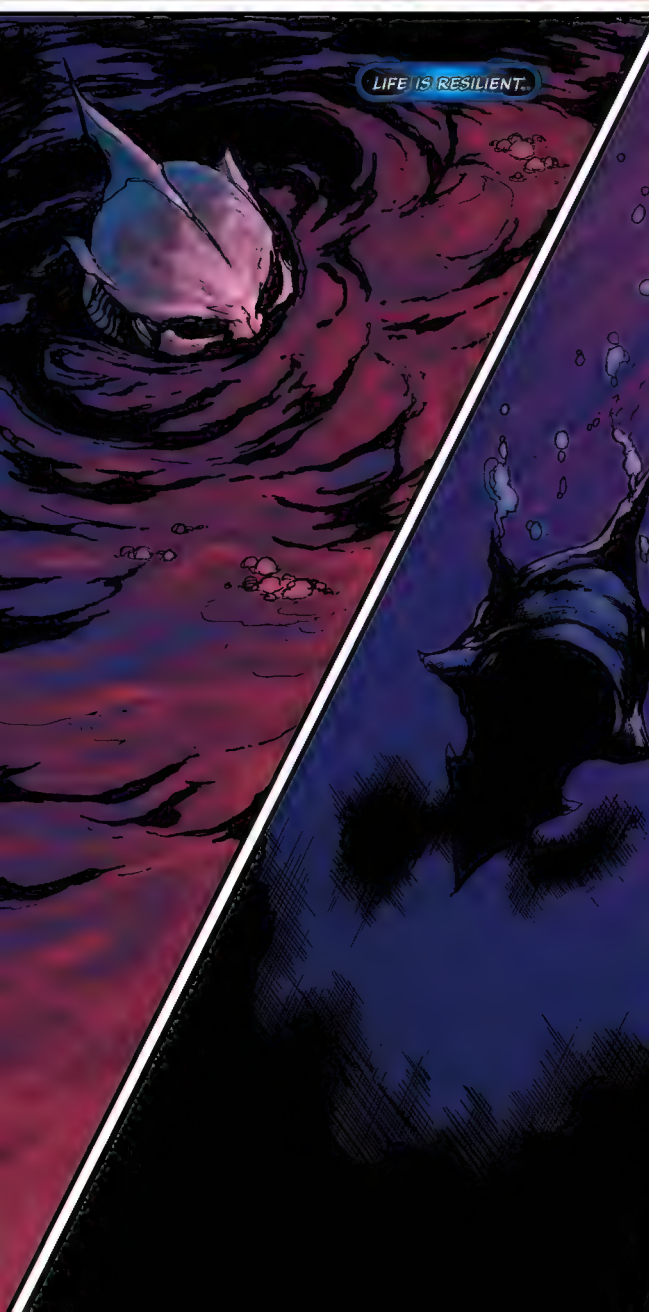
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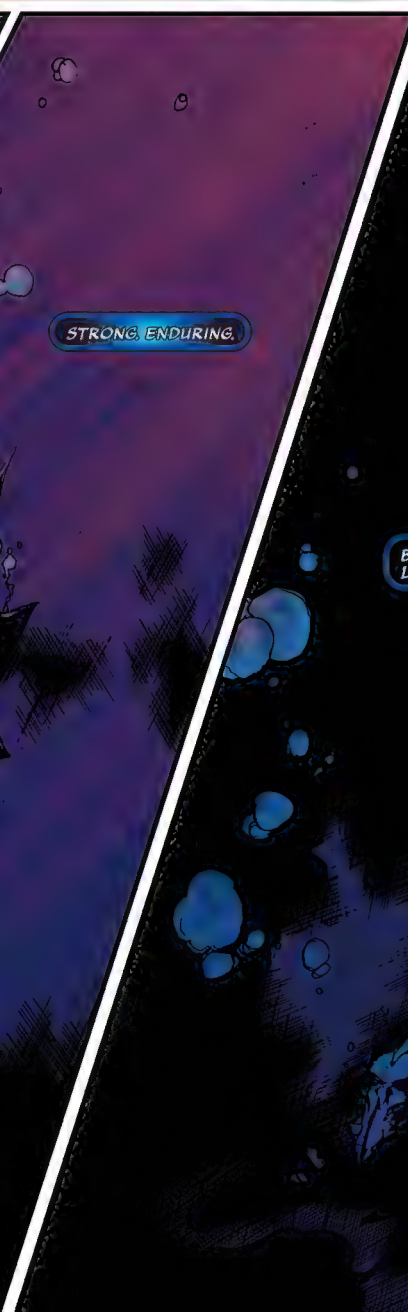
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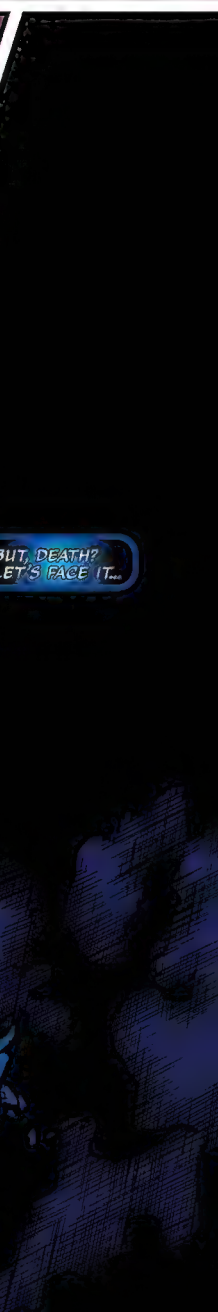
LIFE HAS EXISTED ON THIS
PLANET FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS.
IN ONE MANNER OR ANOTHER.



LIFE IS RESILIENT.



STRONG, ENDURING.



BUT, DEATH?
LET'S FACE IT...



...DEATH IS
INEVITABLE.

I RETURNED TO THIS
TRAGIC MOMENT IN
TIME TO UNDO THE
DEVASTATION. BUT IT
LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING
TO HAVE TO WATCH IT
ALL OVER AGAIN.

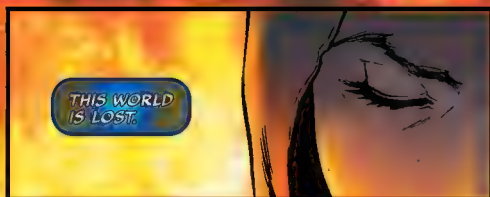
JUST FROM A
DIFFERENT
POINT OF VIEW.



THIS WAR IS LOST.



THIS WORLD
IS LOST.



BUT, THEN AGAIN--I'M
FIGHTING FOR MUCH
MORE THAN THAT.



I ONLY HOPE I
FIND MALIKAI
IN TIME TO
TELL HIM THAT
HE WAS RIGHT.

THIS BOND
WE HAVE IS
STRONG. STANDING
THIS CLOSE, I CAN FEEL
OUR SOULS UNITED.
SO MUCH
POWER.

GRACE
AND I CAME TO
THIS MOMENT IN HISTORY
TO ALTER THE FUTURE, TO
INCREASE THE MAGIC
THAT I MIGHT WIELD.

BUT WAS
THE MAGIC ITSELF
LEADING ME?

DID IT
KNOW WHAT
I SEEK? DID IT BRING US
TOGETHER HERE SO THAT
I MIGHT GAIN A POWER
BEYOND ANYTHING I
EVER DREAMED?

P...PLEASE.
GRACE, YOU HAVE
TO LISTEN TO ME. HE'LL
DESTROY EVERYTHING. YOU.
ME. OUR FRIENDS.
OUR WORLD.

PLEASE,
REMEMBER. YOU
HAVE TO.

AAAAHHHHH!



CHOOOM



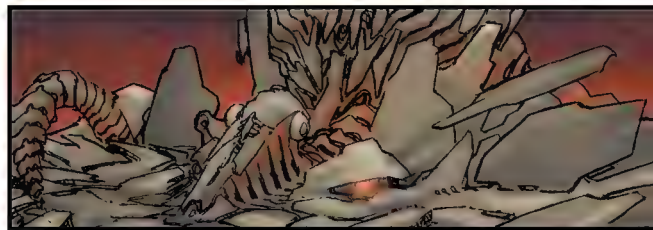
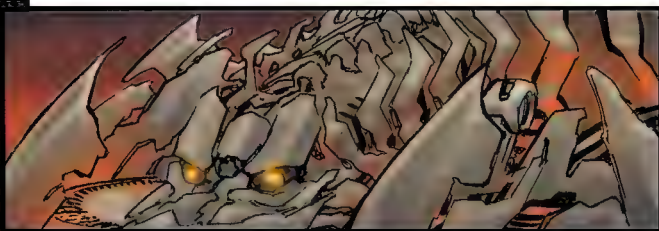
THERE, THAT POWER
SURGE LOOKS LIKE
MAGIC TO ME.



I'M NOT
GIVING UP.
I CAN'T.



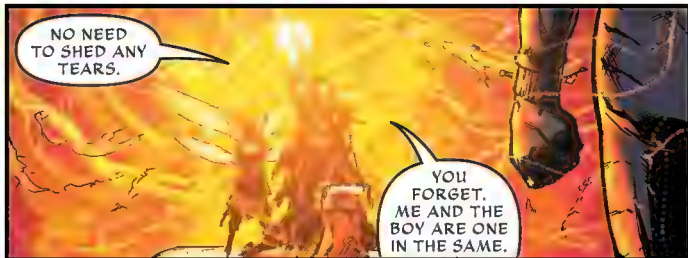
I WON'T.





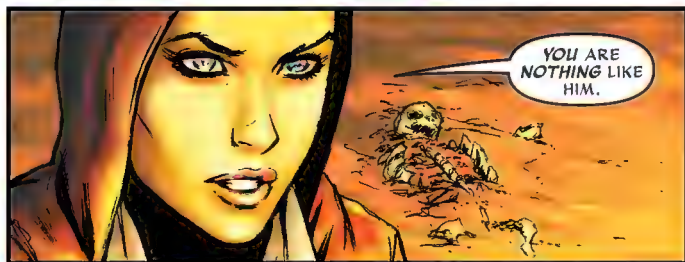
TOO
LITTLE, TOO
LATE.

BUT THEN
AGAIN, YOU
MUST BE USED
TO THAT,
YES?



NO NEED
TO SHED ANY
TEARS.

YOU
FORGET.
ME AND THE
BOY ARE ONE
IN THE SAME.

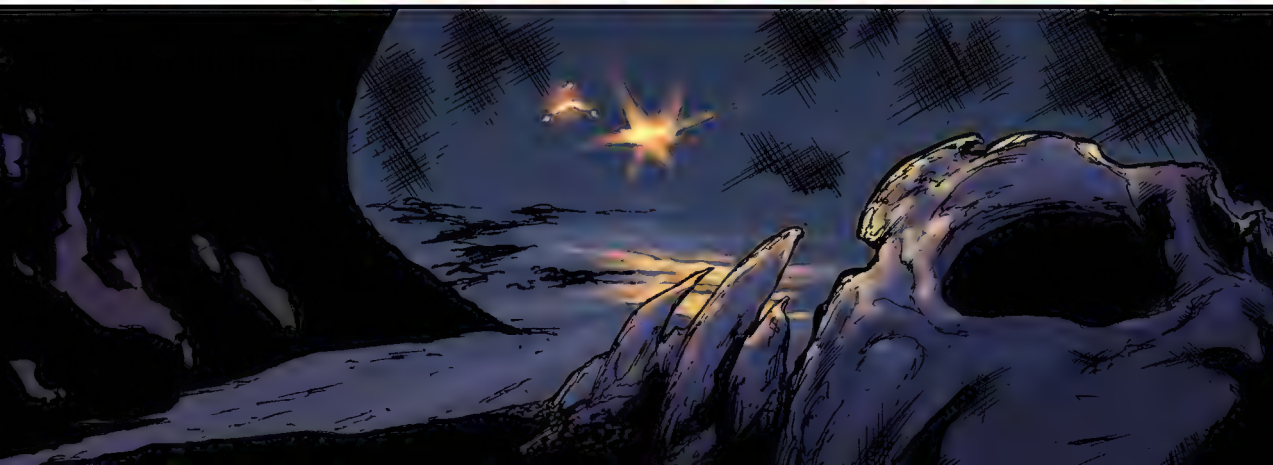


YOU ARE
NOTHING LIKE
HIM.



GOT ROOM
FOR ONE
MORE?

STAY
BACK!





I'VE GOTTEN USED
TO BEING A WOMAN
WITHOUT A WORLD.

NEVER FELT
MORE LOST
THAN RIGHT
NOW.

BUT NOT GOING TO
STOP IF NOTHING ELSE...
WON'T GIVE THEM THE
SATISFACTION.

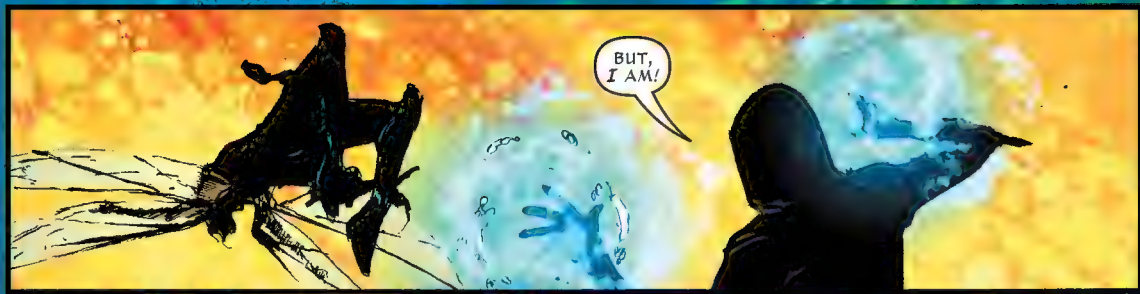


YOUR
WORDS ARE
AS MEANINGLESS
AS THE REST
OF YOU.

NNNN/
YOU DON'T
SCARE ME.
YOU KNOW
WHY?



YOU'RE THE
MEANINGLESS
ONE.
BECAUSE
YOU'RE NOT
FIGHTING FOR
ANYTHING.



BUT,
I AM!



AAAAAAAAAAAAA!







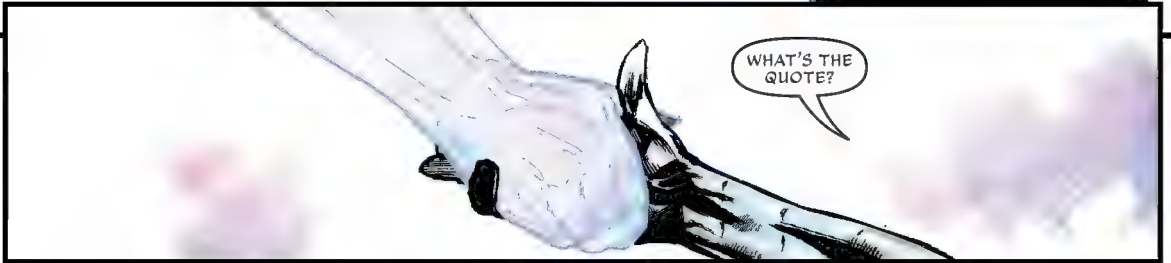
UH-OH



I GUESS
IF YOU ARE
PART OF SOME
ETERNAL SPIRIT,
I SHOULD STOP
CALLING YOU
KID.



SO, IS
THIS THE
END?

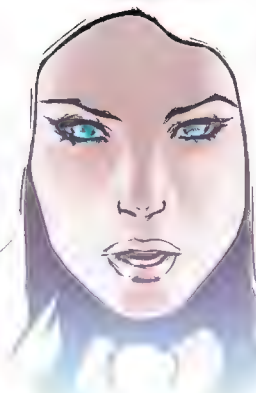


WHAT'S THE
QUOTE?

SO'S
GO LI
RE...

THERE'S
NO PLACE LIKE
HOME...

THAT
PLACE
HOW





BEAUTIFUL
THING, ISN'T
IT?



I COULD LISTEN TO
THOSE WAVES ALL
NIGHT. THE OCEAN
IS SO PEACEFUL.
DON'T YOU
THINK?

SOMETIMES.



YOU
COLD?

UH,
YEAH.



FETCH
ME MY
SWEATER?

SURE.

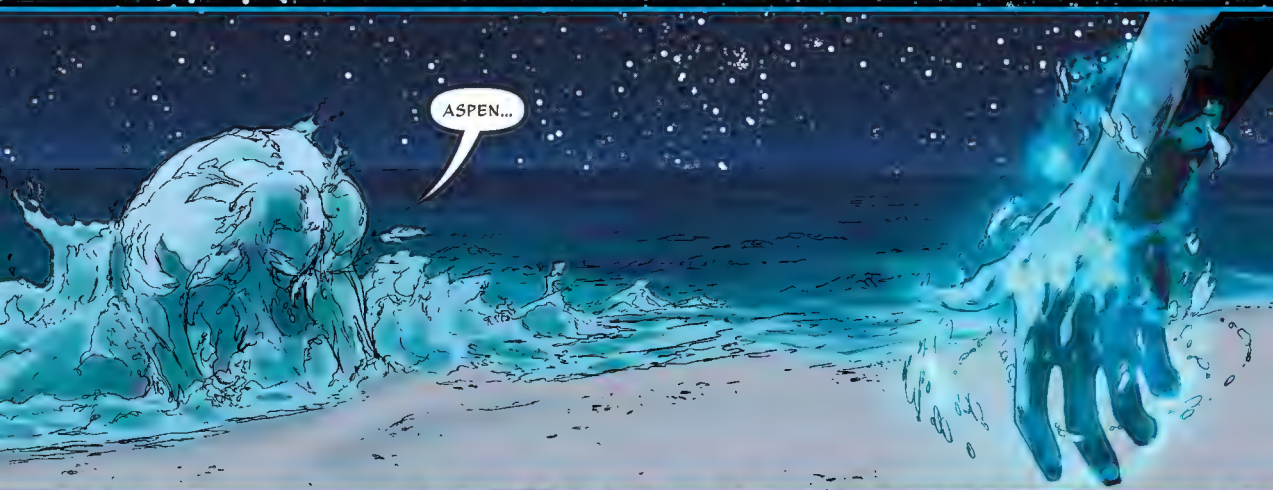


BUT,
MAYBE NEXT
TIME DON'T USE
THE WORD "FETCH."
A GUY HAS HIS
PRIDE.

OH
CHANCE, I'LL
REMEMBER
THAT.



I KNOW
YOU'RE OUT
THERE. SHOW
YOURSELF.

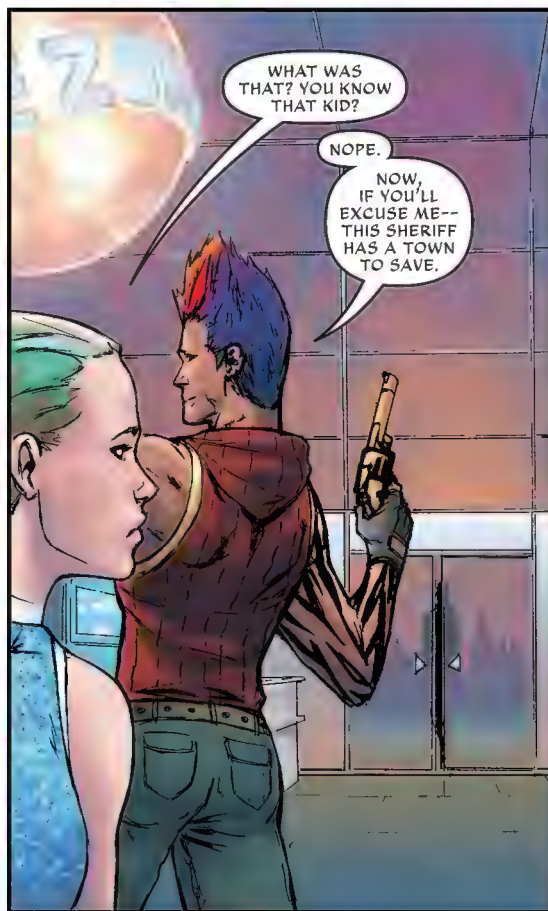
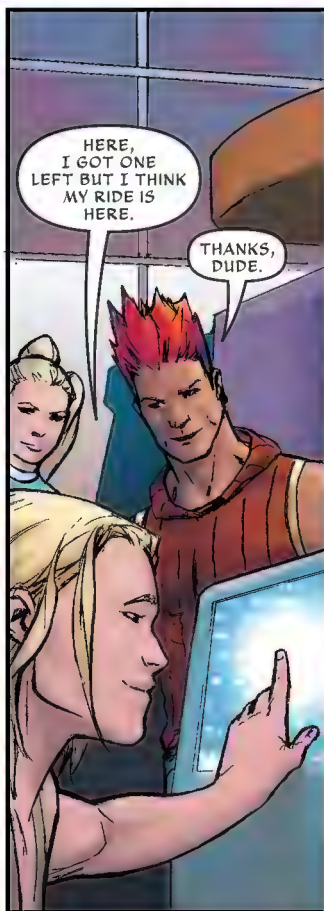
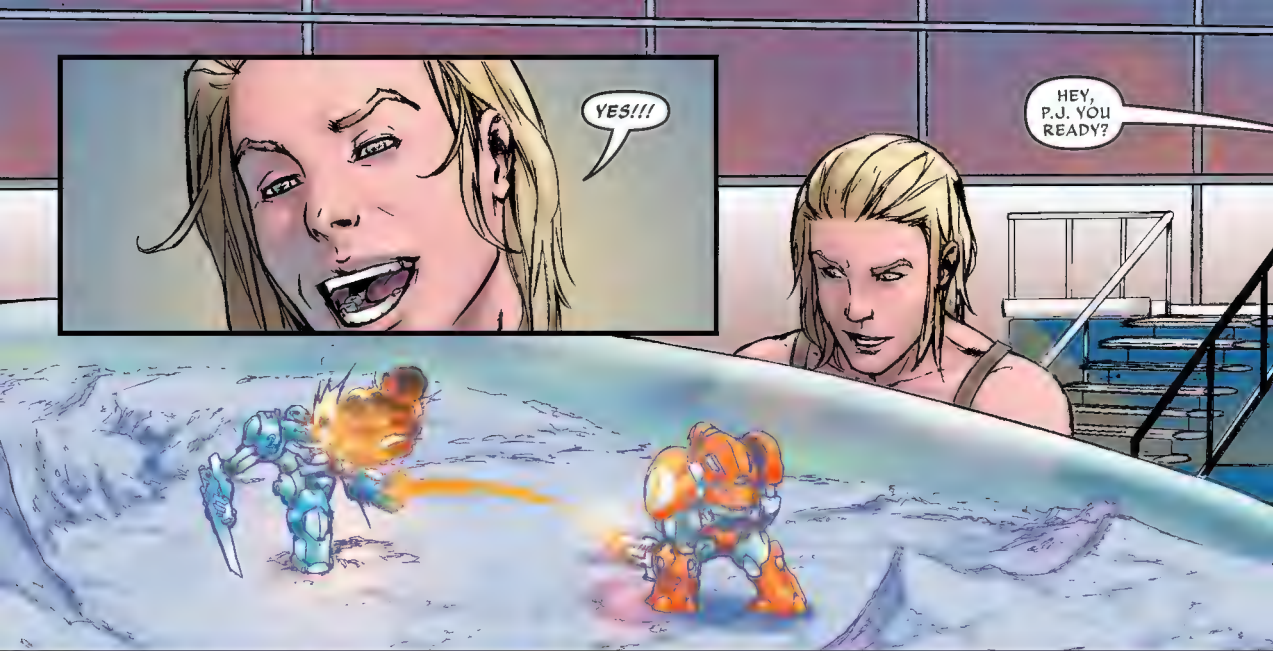


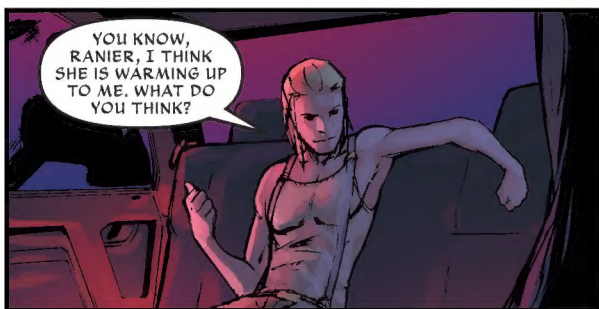
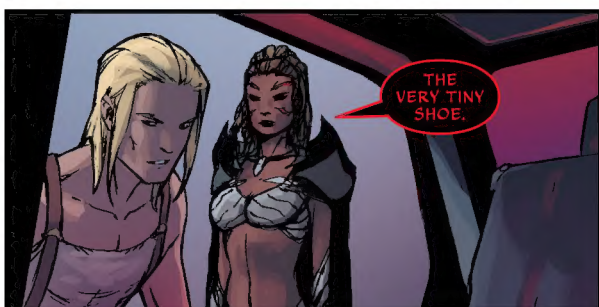
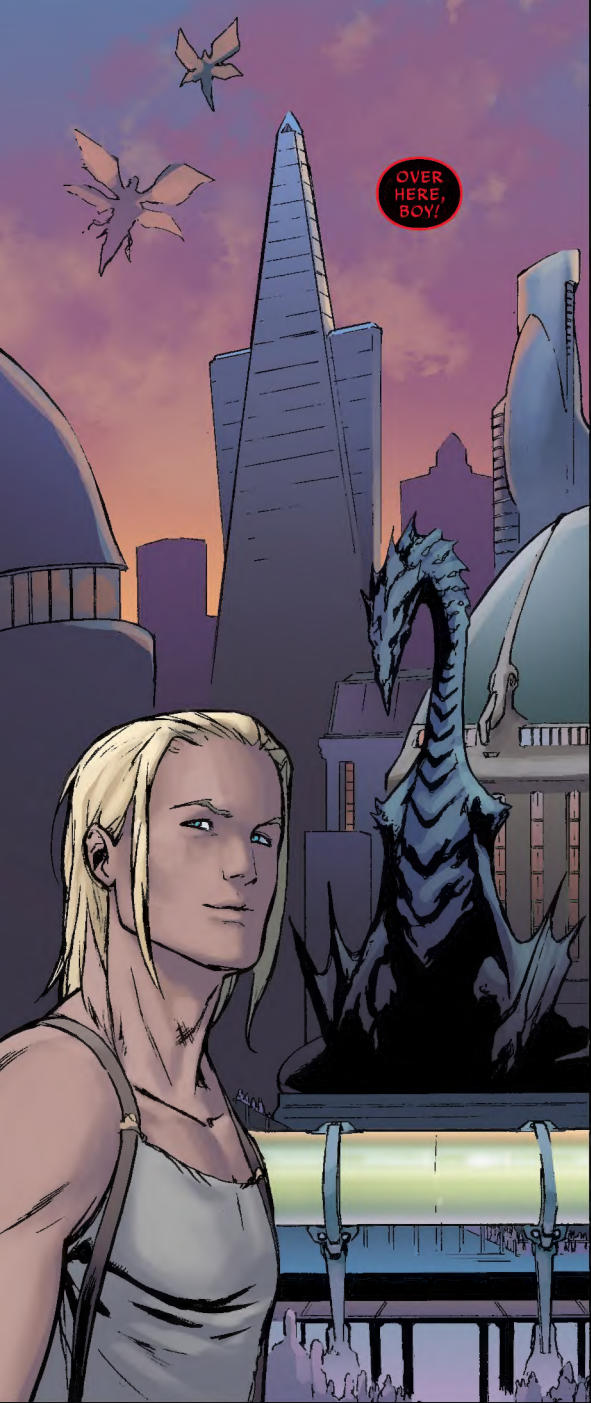
ASPEN...



...WE
HAVE A
PROBLEM.

DON'T
WE ALWAYS,
CANNON?







I USED TO THINK
I KNEW THIS
WORLD. KNEW
MY PLACE IN IT.



BUT, IT'S NOT
THAT EASY.
THIS WORLD
LIKES TO PLAY
TRICKS ON US.



IN SHORT, IT
LIES TO US.



YOU WANT
TO KNOW
THE SCORE,
YOU HAVE
TO LOOK
CLOSE.



BEYOND THE
LIGHTS AND
THE GLOW.



BEYOND
ANY KIND
OF ORDER OR
SENSE OF
HOPE.



THERE, BURIED IN THE
DARKEST CORNERS--THAT'S
WHERE YOU'LL FIND THE ONE
UNDENIABLE TRUTH.



THERE
ARE DEMONS
EVERYWHERE.

THE END...?